

April 12, 1979

LB 39

SENATOR MARSH: Very prompt. The amendment on the Clerk's desk reads: No infant shall be screened if a parent or guardian objects thereto on the grounds that such a screening is contrary to the religious tenets of an established Church of which he or she is a member." Mr. Clerk, did you catch that change, "he or she is a member"?

CLERK: Yes.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All in favor of the Marsh amendment vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? We're voting on the Marsh amendment to LB 39. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Marsh's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The amendment is adopted. Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, PKU which has been tested for in the State of Nebraska for a number of years, is a birth defect, which if untreated results in mental retardation. Likewise, screening tests during the first few days of life have been developed to diagnose infants who may be hyperthyroid, or have no thyroid function. Again, with proper diet and care during the first few months of an infant's life, mental retardation can be completely avoided. It is for this reason that LB 39 was offered to the Legislature. The incidence of PKU varies from one in ten thousand. However, the incidence of hyperthyroid for which LB 39 is offered, is approximately one in every five thousand births, so with Nebraska having 25,000 plus births a year, to save 5 children from a life of mental retardation is a very valuable goal, and I urge your support to advance LB 39 to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is to advance LB 39 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? We're voting on the advancement of LB 39. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President on the motion to advance.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The bill is advanced.