

April 27, 1979

LB 382

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 382. Title read. The bill was read on January 17 of this year. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for public hearing, Mr. President. On a motion offered by Senator Kahle on March 26th, the bill was taken from committee. I now have pending a series of amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Venditte, do you wish to explain the bill? Then we will take up the amendments.

SENATOR VENDITTE: I would, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature. I think the biggest and the most important issue at stake today in this debate on LB 382 is the people of the State of Nebraska. I think this is one of few pieces of legislation that you have received more phone calls on and more letters, and I think that in itself would tell us, the members of the Legislature, that there is a grave need for this kind of legislation. You know the past couple of days I have been told what is going to happen to the bill. I have been told about the amendments that would be pending on the bill. I was concerned and I have been concerned about those amendments but what concerns me more than anything else as we convene here this morning to debate this crucial and most important piece of legislation that we have ten members of the Legislature absent. I, yes, as many of you do on important pieces of legislation count the heads and count the votes. I, to be quite frank and to those of you people who came from all over the state this morning, am lacking in a couple of key, crucial votes. There are some of you out here this morning who are straddling the fence. You are not sure how you are going to vote. Well, those of you who are straddling the fence would mean the do or die of this particular piece of legislation and I say this only because I think of the testimony that we have here with us today can make you come in full support of LB 382. I know your ears have been bent by the opposition. There has been a great deal of input provided by the opposition and I think a great deal of that input has not been valid input and I would like to go into the bill at this point in time, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and I think all of it has been pretty well documented and pretty well said when the bill was advanced from committee as the result of the inaction of the committee. And why did I do that? Well, because I felt it was that important, the issue was that crucial, the magnitude of the issue was that important, not to just this Legislature, but to the people of the great State of Nebraska. These people who are here in the balcony this morning have made more than just one trip down here, ladies and gentlemen, they have