

April 30, 1979

LB 589

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Cullan moves to amend the bill. His amendments are on page 1395 of the Journal.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw that amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Any objection? If not, so ordered. Next amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendments are offered by Senator Newell and the amendments are on page 1395 of the Journal.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I will withdraw this amendment at this time.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Any objections? If not, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Schmit. That amendment is on page 1440 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I offer this amendment because I know that there are a number of persons here who are as concerned as I am about highway safety. Several years ago I visited with the members of the Nebraska Safety Patrol relative to the fact that the helicopter which the Patrol operates was at that time about eight years old and was due for some major and extensive rehabilitation work. The administration at that time chose not to ask for the equipment to be replaced because of the very stringent budget requirements under which they were operating under. The former Col. Karthauser came to me shortly after the first of the year and asked me if I would still be interested in offering the amendment for them. I took it upon myself to get some cost relative to the cost of maintaining and operating the old equipment versus what it would cost the patrol to operate the equipment if it were replaced over the next five years. I think I want to point out first of all the helicopter that they are operating with now is ten years of age. I think that we all recognize that equipment that is that age does not operate the most efficiently, certainly because the patrol depends upon this equipment for emergency performance. The demands upon the equipment are even greater than if it were operated routinely as for example by a business man. Most important I think is the fact that we, if we check the time life items on the equipment, and I have handed out