

clause stands. But if they would want to relocate they could within this statute. In picking out some of the homes we have, in Wayne we have three group homes. In Bellevue we will have two. In Lyons, Nebraska we have one. Now Lyons, Nebraska is a very small community and it does have one and that would be all that would be allowed under this statute. If they would want more than that they would have to go to the city council and ask for permission to build or to install these new homes. I would also like to give you some of the reasons why I feel that this is necessary. One of the things is that this home could have from five to eight people as residents, but not more than eight. These group homes would be serving the physically handicapped and mentally retarded. These homes would be separated by reasonable distance so that they would not affect a community of any type. At the present time we have location here in Lincoln, a concentration of group homes and it is causing some difficulty in that particular area because of this fact. I also feel that establishing throughout the community which this bill does, would allow these type of individuals to become a part of the community and they would be more respected by the people of our state. I'm pleased to report to you that we've gained considerable ground of having our people accept these type of people. To me it is very important. Another thing that is done with these group homes, they are under the Health Department and also under the state licensing board so that these homes are protected as far as the individuals are concerned. This gives these individuals a chance to learn how to live within their community and to advance themselves. To me this is very important. I might point out that this will have a very positive side effect for those who live close to these homes. A very positive effect. I can see these homes coming into communities which would be respectable communities and I'm sure that you will find these individuals that live in this home will recognize that and they will try to outdo the people that are living in that community at the present time in keeping their place in good condition, their yards in respectable condition in trying to keep up with their neighbors so to speak. This to me is positive training and I'm sure that this is what is going to happen. I urge you to support this bill. With this I will close at the present time.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Sieck, is there anything in this bill that would prohibit city councils from including these in their zoning?

SENATOR SIECK: Is there anything in this bill that would prohibit city councils from zoning? The only thing I see