

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CLARK: Committee amendments are adopted. Now on the bill, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, in 1978 this Legislature saw fit to establish a role and mission statement for the postsecondary schools in the State of Nebraska. We have never attempted to do the same thing for the public schools of the State of Nebraska and that is what LB 338 is all about. What it does very specifically is that it establishes that every child attending the public schools shall be entitled to a minimum number of hours in units of teaching in specific courses both for the elementary and secondary grades and it is a policy statement that I would hope this body would express for the public schools saying that we believe the boys and girls of this state are entitled to a minimum basic education. Many of us today are bombarded about the schools are not teaching basic education, and if you go through the bill, you will find that we identify the areas which we consider to be basic and that those are the courses that should be offered and that the child or student enrolled should be entitled to a minimum of hours. It also provides that, the amendment that we adopted provides also as well that by 1982 the State Department of Education shall inform the appropriate committees of this Legislature that the public schools are indeed meeting the intent of the role and mission statement we now have. It also provides you and I an opportunity then to review the kinds of activities which our public schools are supporting that we often don't have an opportunity to, well, to survey or to watch it very closely. This piece of legislation is not particularly unique with the State of Nebraska. There are a couple of other states who have adopted similar types of missions and I tried to get this bill introduced a couple of years ago. However, at that time it was not successful. This time I brought it before the Education Committee and you can see by their record that they believe it is worthy of your consideration on the floor. So what we attempt to do in here, and I will go through it very briefly section by section, Section 1 is a statement of purpose and goal for education in the public schools. Don't get concerned that this includes the private schools. It does not, only the public schools. It states the purpose to America which is to preserve and advance the American ideals. It states the purpose to the State of Nebraska which is respond to the needs, values, and aspirations of our citizens and help improve the quality of life. Subsection (3) states the philosophy of human dignity in treatment of individuals in the educational process and subsection (4) states