

January 15, 1982

LB 335

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments. Is there any further discussion? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

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

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Marsh, do you wish to explain the bill?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give a little historical background. Right now there are certain segments of the adult population who are covered by protective legislation. Right now those population persons fall in the category of disabled or incompetent adults. There are other adults who really are not incompetent or who are not disabled who sometimes need the assistance. We have clarified the age group because we are not trying to intrude into the area of spouse abuse. That is already covered in other sections of our law. That is already funded under a different section of the law. We are now trying to separate the child abuse legislation and the adult population abuse. That is the purpose of LB 335. This also establishes the adult protective services registry rather than having the adults and the childrens reporting process be in the same file. They are different kinds of populations. They should not be in the same general category which has been true since 1973. At the public hearing we had some opposition to the bill by the Press Association, by physicians, by attorneys wanting to be exempted from its provisions and I have promised that I will introduce a piece of amendment on Select File and that will be printed in the Journal so you have an opportunity to see it first. Many seniors who actually are not incompetent or disabled are frail or dependent upon others and may be subject to abuse or neglect. The Department of Welfare has had 108 reports in the first half of the year, of last year, and many of those victims really cannot be served under our current legislation. Therefore there is a need and I expect that each one of you has been contacted by someone from the Silver-Haired Legislature. This has been one of their top priority bills. There has been a great deal of support across the State of Nebraska from many persons who work with this age group in various communities. I urge your support for advancing LB 335 to Enrollment and Review.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Any further discussion to the bill? Senator Landis, your light is on.