

April 7, 1982

LB 520

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Kilgarin.

SENATOR KILGARIN: I move we adopt the E & R amendments to LB 520.

SENATOR LAMB: Those in support of the E & R amendments say aye, those opposed no. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson would move to amend the bill. (Amendments are printed on pages 1794-1796 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I have passed out the amendment to LB 520 and I have also passed out a little cover sheet which explains what each of the amendments would do. Let me go through them again with you. Let me refresh your memory on this bill. LB 520 as amended is a bill that basically deregulates the provision of child care when care is provided for in a home for less than five children. In addition it strengthens the current licensing provisions and it sets the licensing standard as health, safety and protection of children. That is the primary function of LB 520. Now the amendments do four things. First, they clarify a little point that was raised by Senators Newell and Haberman on the floor on General File. As you may recall on the floor we amended LB 520 to make it clear that if a care giver was caring for less than five children that care giver was not even subject to any of the licensing or regulatory provisions for child care and that represents a major change in current law and Senator Haberman and Newell specifically said that included in the count of the number of children in the care giver's home were children of the care giver's own family. What the amendment does, it says look, when you count the number of children that a care giver is caring for you only count in terms of the care giver's family, those children of the care giver that are aged eight or under and that essentially just...all that does is clarify exactly what Senators Newell and Haberman addressed on the floor. Secondly, LB 520 establishes a licensing fee. Now as you may recall current licensing of all care facilities in Nebraska occurs annually but again, the literature in the area says it is silly to license child care on an annual basis. So LB 520 says we only do it every two years and it establishes for the first time a licensing fee and the licensing fee is as follows. If the care giver is providing care for less than thirty children a day, regardless of whether they are happening in the home or in a center, the fee is \$25 so that works out to \$12.50 a year, in effect, or if the care giver is caring for more than thirty children a day, then the licensing fee