

February 4, 1985

LB 187

Committee amendments pending, Madam President.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: LB 187 was introduced by Senator Chizek and it deals with the general subject of requiring law enforcement agencies to act quickly in response to reports of missing children, particularly unemancipated minors. The committee adopted three committee amendments basically altogether and I will leave it to Senator Chizek to explain, of course, the substance of the bill. But the committee amendments that we adopted were, number one, to change the definition of missing persons so that Section 2 of the bill would apply to all persons that are reported as missing to law enforcement officers. The second committee amendment strikes Section 4 of the bill, the penalty provisions, because the committee felt that there are adequate penalty provisions for false reports to police departments and to law enforcement officers already. And the third amendment is to add the emergency clause. The committee felt that it was important because of recent events in Omaha and elsewhere in this state to have this bill go into effect upon the Governor's signature should it be adopted by the Legislature. Now essentially what the bill does is it directs law enforcement agencies to respond immediately upon receipt of a report of a missing person. What the law enforcement agency must do under the bill with respect to all missing persons is to put a report out on the radio through the appropriate police radio network. Number two, to notify all law enforcement agencies in the same or adjacent jurisdictions that might be affected about the report of the missing person. Third, to report to all law enforcement agencies which might be involved according to the allegations of the report, that is if the parents of a missing child or the spouse of a missing person indicates, for instance, he or she believes a person may have gone down to Arizona, why then the law enforcement agency is required to notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies in Arizona. The fourth thing the law enforcement agencies have to do is to respond to any information or requests from other law enforcement agencies. That is Section 2 of the bill. Now Section 3 of the bill requires law enforcement