

the cost to marriage. It's a much higher price you pay when you get married than \$15. That goes for a lot of things. The birth certificate increase, again when you have a child the cost of having a child is certainly much more than \$8 which is what you'd pay for a birth certificate. You take those steps of marriage and birth and you're taking major steps and I think the fees are not onerous or excessive. I think they are probably very reasonable. So because of the precedent in other states and because they are not excessive fees, I'd ask you to reject the amendment and go forward with the bill as presented to you by Senator Barrett.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Sieck has some special guests in the north balcony. There are 19 fourth grade students from Emanuel Lutheran School in York, Nebraska, and their teacher. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Higgins, then Senator Barrett.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. As usual Senator Chambers makes me think twice about a bill or an amendment. As I read this amendment, which I don't know if it's...it's a committee amendment, on page 2 Senator Chambers read it and I have to agree with him. It says, "The local registrar for any county in which a city having a population of 300,000 inhabitants or more is located need not forward the original certificate." But then it goes on, it says, "In addition to any other fee charged for birth certificate such local registrar shall charge and collect an additional fee of \$3." So they're still referring to a county that has over 300,000 population. Now, Senator Wesely, would you yield to a question?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Was this before your committee?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I can explain that.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Was it the intention of your committee just to include Douglas County?

SENATOR WESELY: No. Can I take just one minute? I'll be very brief.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, can I make a suggestion first?