

acted upon this year, it will be next year before it will come to a full vote of the Legislature. To add a little bit to Senator McFarland's learnings, I will point out to him that I do remember when, if lottery would have passed, the Commonwealth people would have been paid off in full. And it wasn't because the Lincoln senators did not vote for it, Senator McFarland, there was one Lincoln senator that did vote for it and that was Senator Beutler. If I remember correctly, if my memory serves me right, the bill did not advance because it only had 24 votes, so it would just have taken one more Lincoln senator to vote for it, not all of them, and it would have advanced back then. But I think the reason that I'm interested in this, because I served on the Banking Committee this summer that did a more in depth, extensive study of the Commonwealth problem than probably any of the committees before them, or the committees that study Commonwealth had. We basically uncovered things that I think places beyond doubt that the state does have a liability to the Commonwealth depositors because of oversights as far back as the 1960s that placed the burden of the destiny of Commonwealth in the state's hands, and things should have been acted on back then. So I would urge this body to place this bill on General File, even though it won't be acted on this year, but to place it out there so it can be up first thing next January.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Harris, followed by Senators Moore, Vard Johnson, and Chambers.

SENATOR HARRIS: I think it is kind of ironic, a change turn of fate that this particular bill would come up at this particular time in my life. I was appointed to the Legislature in 1983, and I was just getting settled into the position when suddenly Commonwealth closed and a weight was placed upon myself and the other people that were affected by it in Lincoln, Nebraska and the other individuals who were affected by it in other parts of the state, as was pointed out by Senator McFarland. A long period of suffering for these people, a period of suffering that should be ended. We've made some progress through the disposal of some of the assets. We've made some progress with the payment of \$8.5 million by the State of Nebraska. I think we need to take this last step to ensure the integrity of the State of Nebraska, the banking system, and just to be fair. I'm not going to take much time. We have discussed this issue many times on this floor. I have always said that the State of Nebraska does not do wrong to its people. My state, the State of Nebraska, does not do wrong to its people and then just say, so sue me. We have an obligation to these people. I was Chair