

ten to fifteen officers in the northeast part of Omaha to deal with that area. If you removed those officers and took their hours or their years of duty out of these and just put equal number of officers in each area, then it is totally equal and I can show that to you and I'll be making handouts to show that to you later on their shift assignments and where they are distributed throughout the city. But the issue that I really want to talk about and that I have an amendment following on is the issue of collective bargaining. We have to decide right now here with this bill if we are going to allow the Legislature to overturn collective bargaining agreements. You have to decide with this bill. This is not a police bill. I have changed the language slightly in my amendment to show you that it can affect anyone in the State of Nebraska, any collective bargaining agreements in the State of Nebraska can be affected by the Legislature with this kind of legislation. Now are we going to, in my estimation, abuse that power that we have and get into collective bargaining agreements? I mean we could put a bill in here that said, if we can get it passed, the Legislature will have to agree with or approve all collective bargaining in the State of Nebraska. Is that what you want? Is that the road you want to start stepping down? That's where we're headed with this kind of bill getting into the police union collective bargaining agreements. That's the one issue that I think we should look at. You don't look at this bill and read the writing and see the Omaha Police Department. I want you to look at this bill and think of any collective bargaining agreement in the State of Nebraska. Any area that has been collective bargaining, can we step in and change it? Now take any agency, the NSEA, any organization that is collectively bargained, the state agencies here, we can get into that and change these things, but should we? Is this the kind of decision you want to make on this kind of bill, affecting changes to collective bargaining agreements? So I know Senator Chambers is going to try to focus you on Omaha and problems within Omaha and spew out a lot of different facts and figures and I'm going to do just the same when that time comes, but the bottom line here is that you should all be thinking about, do you want to start down the road of the Legislature, getting into collective bargaining agreements and changing them through legislation? You should think long and hard about that and really this decision is not only affecting the Omaha Police Department. This decision can affect many other areas of our government.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.