

saying that the agency would make the final decision. That is actually not technically correct. It is DAS would actually make that decision on what the best bidder was, not the lowest bidder was, so I want to make sure that was clarified. I think the bill has been discussed, I think the issue of legal services will probably be revisited on Select File, but I think as a whole the bill takes us in a direction of broadening our competitive bidding statutes to make them apply to many more things as I think they should. I think that's for the protection of the administration and protection of legislators as well because sometimes, I mean, there's been an example of someone in DAS that was hired to do some consulting work for DAS but it was never competitively bid, a \$60,000 contract. Under this...with this statute in place that type of situation would have had to have been bid and I would argue probably the same person would have been hired, but anybody, any opposition would have been hard-pressed to make an argument if a competitive bidding process had been followed. The way it is now, I mean, the sky is the limit on what sort of allegations you can make because it is totally an inside job. That's not good or bad, that's just the way it is. This opens it up and makes sure that everybody has a chance to come to the table and offer their services to the State of Nebraska. I think the bill is in a good form. I would ask for its advancement.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Moore. The issue before the body is the advancement of LB 322 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 322.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: LB 322 advances from General File. New bills, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, I do, thank you. (Read LBs 1160-1169 by title for the first time. See pages 367-369 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 297. The following guests are visiting the Legislature. We have 17 Japanese students who are attending an agricultural training program at the University of Nebraska here in Lincoln.