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to do with the authorization of digital signatures for Internet transactions in the state of Nebraska and to provide for their being legal in transactions for whatever purposes they might be used to now. In the ensuing two years, and I need to back up one step for a moment, and the responsibility for writing the regulation to implement the digital signature legislation was placed in the Office of the Secretary of State as the keeper of the records for the state of Nebraska. Now in the intervening two years, there have been several different things that have arisen in their implementation and creation of legislation, and they brought to me late last year proposed amendments to the digital signature section of statute. And I will share with you from notes what LB 1080 does, what AM2918 does. Number one, it authorizes any state agency or political agen...political subdivision, that would be local government, to accept digital signatures or electronic signatures. Two, it provides that the Secretary of State shall adopt and promulgate additional rules and regulations to, number one, identify and define the type of signature which may be used in electronic communications; two, identify and define the type of electronic communications for which a digital signature or an electronic signature may be used; and, three, provides a degree of security reasonably related to risk and consequences of fraud or misuse. That's in the regulation...rule and regulation side clarification of the statutory directions. This amendment does not invalidate digital signatures, electronic signatures, or electronic communications, which are now valid under any applicable law. The use or acceptance of digital signature or electronic signature shall be at the option of the parties to the communication. And then it goes on to define electronic signature and state agency, which their was a feel that there wasn't quite enough clarity to identify that the Secretary of State is, in fact, the entity that will develop and authorize all of the rules and regulations that have to do with electronic signatures. I would certainly be willing to respond to any questions, Mr. President. Aside from that, I would ask for the addition of AM2918 to LB 628.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. We are now open for discussion on AM2918 to LB 628. Senator Brashear, on the