

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

February 1, 2001 LB 244

whatever. I mean I...it goes all the way through their state if it becomes reality. I have heard that Illinois is dragging their feet which just amazed me, but the rationale in the Illinois Legislature is that they don't want to water down their opportunity to obtain federal funds for the mass transit system by necessarily being a part of a larger group where those funds might be spread amongst more players. Now, I don't know if that philosophy is going to prevail there, but that is...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...supposedly why they haven't already...I thought Illinois would be the first state to join because everything comes out of Chicago on this proposed plan. So there are obstacles ahead and questions and...and I'll just try to be as honest with you as I can and get some more answers. And I've got some more to say, but I'll do it on my time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm, your light is next.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Trying to retain my chain of thought on Senator Beutler's questions, and he'll have to ask me again if I'm not responding to them, but focusing for a minute on page 6, line 5, that talks about, "Nothing in this compact shall be construed to commit a member state to participate in financing a rail project except as provided by law of the member state," what...what that means to me is that if we join this compact and the compact is successful in getting some money together to proceed with a project, we then decide whether we want to participate in that project or not as a Legislature and not...because it says "as provided by law of a member state". I don't think the commissioners or delegates or whatever they're called that are our representatives in the compact could bind us. I don't think the Governor could bind us. It would be by law of this state. Now, I think that we could...we could...we would want to, if we passed this LB 244 in some fashion, we would want to perhaps clarify that in Nebraska we...our participation by law would mean the passage of a statute or a bill by this Legislature to further crystallize that that's what we would do. So I wanted to be sure to try to answer that question. Senator Beutler, if he would yield to a