

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 23, 2001 LB 86, 451

LB 86.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 86 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: LB 451, Mr. President, by Senator Thompson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson, you're recognized to open on LB 451.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, LB 451 is a bill that comes to you because of a bill we passed last year. As you may recall, the priority bill that I designated last year was a combination of several bills brought to the Legislature in an attempt to address issues of juvenile detention, diversion and intake processes. Two years ago, the Nebraska Association of County Officials hired Chinn and Associates, a national consulting firm that does work on juvenile justice planning, to look at the detention system in Nebraska and make recommendations. On the yellow sheet in front of you are some excerpts from that plan and they include findings and a recommendation. And her findings were that many youth in Nebraska are placed in detention for reasons not included in our Juvenile Code. These include probation violation, status offenses, pending evaluations and other reasons that are not defined by statute. And also that placement in secure facilities should be for youth only that pose a risk to the community. Risk factors should be determined locally by juvenile justice officials and include the offenses and other factors to determine those placements. And her recommendation was the report states specifically that a risk assessment instrument for secure detention be developed. As a result of that, the county officials and several members of the Legislature worked to bring forth a bill to address that issue. Last year we passed a bill that requires a juvenile screening intake instrument be used by October 1 of 2001. And to facilitate that, a juvenile detention task force was created. Senator Aguilar, Senator Jensen and I are representatives of the Legislature on that task force, which includes people from the