

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

March 12, 2002 LB 564

heard, this is a carryover bill from last year. It was introduced in Judiciary Committee, came out of Judiciary with no dissenting votes. And I want to thank Senator Smith for prioritizing this bill. I'm going...it's going to take a while to go through this. We'll start on it, and I'm sure there's going to be lots of questions and discussion, but why...the first thing people are going to say is why is this bill needed? Two points. The federal government has passed legislation which requires all states to be in compliance with certain laws relating to registration of sex offenders. It wants to provide some uniformity. There's about 40 states at last count that had gone ahead and adopted uniform guidelines for sex offender registration, convicted sex offenders. The second reason we need to do this is they have the carrot in front of us again. If we do not do this, we're going to lose 10 percent of our Byrne Grant funds, which would amount to about \$400,000 per year. This \$400,000 per year is going to be taken...if we don't pass this bill, it's going to be taken out of the sex offender program and also some of that money goes to the fight of drugs in the rural areas, so it's important that we get this bill passed this session. A little background on this legislation. In 1996, LB 645 was passed and then in '98, LB 204 was passed. Those bills established the original sex offender registry and notification division within the Nebraska State Patrol. And it's...this is a continuation of that process of getting things up to speed, streamlining some things and providing uniformity across the country for convicted sex offender registration issues. The cost of this legislation, we are obviously very cost-conscious right at the moment. There will be some additional administrative duties for the State Patrol but they have assured us that they will be accomplished with existing staff. It will require some extra work at the local sheriff's offices to send in additional address changes to the Sex Offender and Registration Division of the Nebraska State Patrol. It's similar to what they're doing, they're just going to have to be more current. The bill also requires the court to determine when lifetime registration applies and, of course, there's various categories of sexual offenders registration, what you see in the paper, Level 3 offenders. This bill sets out two criteria for lifetime registration in Section 5(2) in the bill. The first criteria, the first is a second or a