

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

March 30, 2006 LB 745

Nebraska and the sport of thoroughbred racing have realized a long, rich tradition of mutual benefit. Thoroughbred racing is indeed a good fit for Nebraska. Since 1934, thoroughbred racing has complemented our state's agriculturally based economy. And in recent years, however, thoroughbred racing, Nebraska racetracks, and thoroughbred breeders have struggled against various forms of expanded gambling, both within Nebraska and in surrounding states. LB 745 merely gives the thoroughbred racing industry a tool to be competitive. Like current simulcast thoroughbred racing, the bill will authorize racing that originates from an outside location and is transferred to the racetrack's current simulcast system. The outside system stores tens of thousands of digitized official races that have been run at regulated racetracks. Prior to placing a wager, the patron is provided past performance information. However, the names of the thoroughbred, the jockey, the race, and the racetrack are all concealed until the patron places his or her wager. So there is, members, it's not like the machines you might find over in Council Bluffs where it's purely luck and kind of like a slot machine. There is skill involved with these devices, these personalized simulcast devices. This is not expanded gambling. This is an advanced type of parimutuel wagering of regulated races simulcast to licensed racetracks. Thoroughbred and quarter horse racing is a part of Nebraska history, both economically and culturally. I believe it is imperative to give the State Racing Commission the authority to enhance Nebraska's thoroughbred racing competitiveness in the gaming market. I thank the members for your full consideration of LB 745 and, as indicated, there are committee amendments to the bill. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator. There are committee amendments, as stated. Senator Janssen, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments, Chairman of...

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Committee amendment AM0679 was drafted because the committee felt it was necessary to ensure that some limits to the use of these machines. On page 2 of the bill, at the end of line 27, we added language saying that the parimutuel wagering on historic horse races, that the Racing Commission will be