

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

HUGHES: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the tenth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Clements. Please rise.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. Please join me in prayer. The Bible says the Lord said to Elijah: Go stand on the mountain, for the Lord is about to pass by. Then a great wind tore the mountains apart, but the Lord was not in the wind. Then there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After that came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And then came a gentle whisper and it was the Lord. Jeremiah declared: Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. Today is a new day. Let us never give up hope of making progress. When we feel the pressure of a crisis, remind us that you have plenty of time. We remember that you are never in a hurry and will not be rushed by the pressures of man's issues. Lord, help us to open our hearts, to hear your voice as we seek to do your will. It is the heritage of all your children to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. I ask you to clearly direct our hearts in this session today for your glory. In Jesus's name, amen.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Clements. I recognize Senator Halloran for the Pledge of Allegiance.

HALLORAN: Please join with me in the pledge. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Halloran. I call to order the tenth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Senators please record your presence. Roll call. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a quorum present.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you have any items for the record?

CLERK: I have one, Mr. President: acknowledgment of the issuance of a subpoena by the Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Special Investigating and Oversight Committee. That's all that I have at this time, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Speaker Hilgers, for an announcement.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. I appreciate your patience throughout the week, and I certainly appreciate your patience here this afternoon. I want to briefly-- will tell you about what the order of the agenda will be this afternoon, and I'll talk about that briefly. But first I just want to make a couple of quick remarks, mostly of thanks and gratitude. The-- the people that I want to thank, first and foremost, are the staff and LRO. The-- the committee staff, the Redistricting Committee, and all of the individuals working under the direction of Director Thompson have-- have worked overtime, weekends, late at night, early mornings for the last at least three weeks, if not over-- over a month, and we couldn't be even remotely in a place where we are today without their invaluable assistance. I also want to briefly thank the members of the Redistricting Committee: Chair Linehan, Vice Chair Wayne, Senator Blood, Senator Morfeld, Senator Lathrop, Senator Brewer, Senator Geist, Senator Lowe, and Senator Briese. We spent a lot of time working together over the last month and a half or if not longer. And we've spent a lot of time individually working together to communicate with our colleagues, with all of you, over the last week in particular, and especially the last three or four days. We wouldn't be where we are here this afternoon without that opportunity. And I'm grateful for the focus and energy and commitment to get this done this year-- this week, so that we could get this done this year. I know this has not been an ideal set of circumstances with the data coming in so late, and I know under other circumstances maybe we couldn't have gotten it done. And I know that this is something that hasn't happened before in Nebraska, and there was at least an open question as to whether or not we could complete this work in the special session. Without the energy and commitment of focus of every one of you and your staffs and the ability to focus on these issues but be available for conversations late into the night, we wouldn't be in the position we are today. So I'm very grateful to all of you for your work. Briefly, what's going to happen this afternoon, we are going to have the remaining four bills that are on General File or will soon be on General File, the remaining four redistricting bills. We will take up each one of those on General File this afternoon. The first one will be LB1. We will-- and that's what we'll take up here in a moment. We will have a number of amendments withdrawn and an amendment from Senator Linehan that will be brought with a revised map to LB1. Subsequent to that, we will take up LB3, sa--the same order of events. The motions or amendments will be withdrawn, and then Senator Wayne will have an amendment to LB3. After that, we will do the Regents map, which I believe will be kicked out of committee shortly. And then after that, finally, will be the-- the map for the Board of Regents. So we are-- we are about to start. If-- certainly, if you have any

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

questions about this, please let me know. But again, the word for me is gratitude for all the work of so many people. This is a very complex and difficult process, probably one that I think people said was-- was going to be difficult, but until you live it, you don't fully appreciate how difficult it truly has been. So with that, Mr. President, we can begin. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. Mr. Clerk, the first item on the agenda.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB1 is a bill originally introduced by the Redistricting Committee. It provides for the redistricting of-- for boundaries of the representatives of Congress of United States. The bill was considered on September 17. I have a series of amendments that were offered. Senator Matt Hansen, AM12, I understand you want to withdraw, Senator? Thank you. Senator Hunt, AM12-- I'm sorry, Senator Wayne, you had pending a motion to recommit. I understand you wish to withdraw. Senator? Thank you. Senator Hunt, AM16? Withdraw, thank you, Senator Hunt. AM23 likewise? Thank you. Senator McCollister, AM25? Withdraw, thank you. Senator Morfeld, AM17? Withdraw. Senator Linehan, I had amendments from you, Senator, AM18 and AM20. Withdraw? All right, thank you. Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Linehan, AM36.

HUGHES: Senator Linehan, you're welcome to open on AM36.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. I, too, want to thank several people. I'll try to move through is pretty quickly. The LRO staff have been here-- I-- I don't-- they've been here every day since Labor Day, including weekends and including till 10:00 and 11:00 at night. I also want to thank Grant and Beau-- Grant is in my office and Beau is in the Speaker's Office-- who have been running up and down the halls, delivering maps, drawing maps, working, and Trevor in Senator Wayne's office. It-- it's-- I mean, they really have been crucial to this whole effort. Of course, I want to thank the committee members. Senator-- Speaker Hilgers already thanked them, but I want to shout out that this has been a very, very tough and emotional operation, so I appreciate all their hard work. And I also know there are-- every member in this body has been working on this and trying to figure out solutions, so I want to thank them all. And some have made very tough decisions for the state's behalf, and I am and I feel that when we get to the end of this, we'll all owe them a great deal of gratitude, which I'll talk to later. What do we-- I-- if we don't have maps to you, they're coming. So what the new congressional districts do, first and foremost, keeps Douglas County whole. Then it goes out and takes Saunders, which I can actually-- I

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

mean, Saunders County is only two-- two minutes from my house. Well, actually, if I go through the woods, it's-- I go across the Elkhorn River, it's in my neighborhood. And then it goes down and takes Sarpy County pretty much where it is-- where it is already in 2nd District and we got to the zero deviation. On the 1st District, it's-- this is for Senator Flood and Senator Moser, for anybody that's watching from those communities, Madison and Platte County are still in the 1st District, as is Lancaster County. And then obviously we have the huge 3rd District, so you've got that. Any questions, I'll be here, Senator Wayne; anybody else on the committee, you can talk if you have questions. But with that, I would appreciate your green vote on AM1 [SIC]. Thank you. [RECORDER MALFUNCTION] on AM36.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan, Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I'm only going to speak once because I understand-- I can-- I can count and I understand what's going on, and I think it's great that we're all coming together. I'm going to be a red on this simply because the most direct route would have been through Sarpy and most of the time we heard people say they wanted to keep Sarpy whole. We could have did that. I'm not going to get on the floor, badger everything and keep things going. But I wanted my constituents to know that I will be voting red. I don't necessarily like and agree with what's-- what the congressional maps are. But I understand where we are. I understand what's going on. And I-- I'm not saying what's going on is some kind of shady secret thing. It's just you'll see the votes and we'll move forward and we'll try to keep working on Select File to maybe make some changes, but that's why I'm voting red. I appreciate it. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker-- or, I'm sorry, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. I am also not going to support AM36 at this time, but I am not going to spend a lot of time belaboring that point. I did want to address, because I have been receiving a lot of emails and I know that the media has been following this, and I'm sure all of you have been receiving emails as well about the mother's room. I did keep my promise. I'm a woman of my word. I always am. And I, here on the floor, said earlier this week that I would vacate my office so that it would be available so that the person that is currently housed in the mother's room could be relocated, whether they are relocated to my office or other staff is shifted around. I was told-- well, my office was told that that would not happen and that

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

the mother's room will not be reinstated at this time. So I just wanted to make sure that everybody was aware of the situation as it unfolds. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Linehan, you're welcome to close on AM36. Senator Linehan waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the advancement-- or the-- the adoption of AM36 to LB1. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30-- 38 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Linehan's amendment.

HUGHES: Thank you.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Linehan, you're welcome to close on LB1. Senator Linehan waives closing on LB1. Colleagues, the question before us is the advancement to E&R Initial of LB1 as amended. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 10 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB1.

HUGHES: LB1 does advance. Colleagues, Speaker Hilgers, you're recognized.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Just briefly, colleagues, we're still waiting on the amendment from L-- for LB3 and we're going to stand at ease for a few minutes so that the Redistricting Committee can Exec on the other two bills that I referenced, which will be the Board of Education and the Regents. So we'll just stand at ease for a little bit of time. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker-- Speaker Hilgers. We are standing at ease.

CLERK: Redistricting Committee, you want to meet? Underneath-- Redistricting Committee will meet underneath the south balcony, Redistricting Committee, south balcony.

[EASE]

HUGHES: Speaker Hilgers for an announcement.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon, colleagues. I appreciate everyone's patience as we work through the complex and time-consuming process of getting these maps up to the Revisors, getting the amendments drafted or bills and committee amendments, and then taken back down. We do have paperwork now for LB7, which is that-- which are the maps for the Board of Education, and so we're going to go a little out of the originally intended order and now do LB7, since we've got it. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. Senator Walz, you're recognized.

WALZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Just very, very quickly, thank you for the time. I just wanted to let everybody know that today is former Senator, Senator Sara Howard's birthday. And I'm pretty sure it is a milestone birthday. So everybody just wish her a happy birthday when you see her. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Walz. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, first of all, I need to report that the Redistricting Committee has reported LB7 to General File with committee amendments attached. Mr. President, LB7 on the floor. It's a bill by the Redistricting Committee relating to boundaries for members of the State Board of Education, reported to the floor just now. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Linehan, you're recognized to open on LB7.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon again, colleagues. So LB7 is the State Board of Education redistricting plan. What we try-- what we have done is that the way the map was introduced, we didn't make any changes. But then when we looked at it, realized that you had four of the seats going into Douglas County. So without pushing anybody out of their seat-- nobody is getting moved out of their district-- we managed to-- I should say staff managed to find a way to get just three go into Douglas County; and then 2 is Sarpy County and south, there's Lancaster County is 1. Then you have number 3, which goes a little bit into actually what used to be my district, it's now going to be Senator Walz's district. And 6 and 5 and 7 make up the rest of the state. And clearly, because as we can tell how difficult this is, if there are hiccups here, we can fix them between now and Select. So with that, I'd appreciate your green vote on the amendment.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. As the Clerk stated, there are amendments from the Redistricting Committee. Senator Linehan, as Chair of that committee, you're recognized to open on the amendments.

LINEHAN: I just talked about the amendment. So I don't-- I think that will suffice for the thing.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Proceeding to the queue, Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, colleagues. Thank you to the Redistricting Committee. Again, we heard a lot of feedback after the initial maps were presented. With that feedback, one of the things was the state board and-- the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents always mirrored each other. And now I kind of know why, because after you spent so much time doing Congress in the Legislature, since they are equally number divided, it's just like one last map, one less map to do. But after the feedback, it is, it is relevant that we move one of those districts out because it doesn't harm anybody and give more Nebraska a voice to make sure that they're heard on the State Board of Education. There is going to be one slight modification to the map that you all have in front of you. If you look at L-- in Douglas County, LD2 and 4, I mean, 8 and 4, I believe. So 4 is going to run north and south on 72nd Street, but there is a part of south that picks up almost to 84th Street. That's actually in the Westside, almost into the Ralston area. And so we are going to move that or-- and Senator Linehan had agreed, on Select, we're going to move that more to the middle. So then that person would represent all of OPS and it will be consistent. And then the next person, who's on the west of that person, west side of that person, would actually represent Westside in the entirety, instead of having two board members. So it will track better with the actual school boards in that area. So that, so nobody's caught off guard on Select, that is what we will be doing. If you have any more suggestions or thoughts, please get back to us by Sunday at noon or something like that on Sunday so we can go in the map room and try to get things done on Monday for Select. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Linehan, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments. Senator Linehan waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of AM33. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

HUGHES: AM33 is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Senator Linehan, you're welcome to close on LB7 as amended. Senator Linehan waives closing. Colleagues, the question is the advancement of LB7 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes-- excuse me, 44 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the motion to advance the bill.

HUGHES: The bill advances. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, first of all, LB8 introduced by the Redistricting Committee has been reported to General File with committee amendments attached. Mr. President, LB8, offered by the Redistricting Committee, it sets the district boundaries for members of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, introduced on September 13. At this time, I have committee amendments pending to the bill, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Linehan, as Chairman of the Redistricting Committee, you're welcome to open on LB8.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. So I agree with Senator Wayne that I understand now why these maps weren't-- have been generally all drawn the same way. But we had the same issue with the Board of Regents, where you had four, four districts reached into the Omaha-- and I don't mean metro area, they reached into Douglas County. So in the map that we're-- that was, we amended that map this morning in Exec, so now three districts reach into Douglas County. The Platte, the northeast corner of the state does-- no longer does. And then you have a district in Lincoln, a district in the southeast part of the state, a district kind of in-- not in the middle-- east of the middle, which includes Kearney and UNK is 6. And then we have the rest of the state, which is very important, Panhandle, southeast corner is District 7. So-- and importantly, all incumbents remain in their districts. So I would ask for your green, ask for your vote when we get the amendment. I'm sorry I keep doing this. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. As the Clerk stated, there are amendments from the Redistricting Committee. Senator Linehan, you're welcome to open on AM39.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

LINEHAN: Thank you. So I just described the amendment, so I would like a green vote. I would appreciate it very much. I think, so would the committee, all of us, appreciate a green vote on AM39 and then a green vote on LB8. Thank you. And again, just like we said on the state school board, if there's anything found over the weekend, if you would let us know by noon on Sunday, that would be very helpful. Thank you very much.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Discussion is now open on AM39. Senator Erdman, you are recognized.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I just received a copy of the map for regents, and it's very difficult for me to understand where those lines are. There's not one county designation on the map. So I, I would assume that what one must do is find a map with the county designations and then try to pick that up to see where-- where those lines go and what counties are included or what counties are excluded. That-- this is a poorly done map. I would think that if they want us to make a decision that we ought to be able to tell which counties are in and which counties are out. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Linehan, you're welcome to close on AM39.

LINEHAN: And I should have pointed this out. I'm sorry, I did not. That's on me, that the maps that are attached, that have the counties outlined, I believe. OK, I don't know if they do. If they don't-- some of them do. Here's the deal. I'm going to stick up for LRO here a little bit. This is really hard and they are trying really hard. So I think that their districts, they do have the counties on the ones attached, but I understand that it would have been better if the state map-- I get that, it would have been better if the state map had had counties. And hopefully 10 years from now somebody is keeping a book and explain all the things that can go wrong with redistricting. Thank you. So I'd appreciate your green vote on AM39 and LB8. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. The counties on the board region maps are visible. You have to look very carefully because they're in red, and when you copy them on our copier-- and by the way, we only have one copier, color copier in this entire building. So when you make a copy, they're a little lighter. That's the issue that you're running into, but they, they are on there. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Clements, you're recognized.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. Would Senator Linehan yield to a question?

HUGHES: Senator Linehan, will you yield?

LINEHAN: I'll yield with no guarantee of knowing the answer.

CLEMENTS: I'm comparing the State Board of Education map I've received and the Board of Regents maps. They differ. Do they differ?

LINEHAN: They do differ because the Board of Regents incumbents and the State Board of Education incumbents do not live in the same house or even in the same town.

CLEMENTS: OK, well, in your opening you were talking about how it's so much better to make them match. But I didn't hear any discussion that they didn't match, but maybe I missed that.

LINEHAN: They don't match anymore.

CLEMENTS: Yeah, they don't match by quite a bit. I see District 6 goes all the way from the Kansas border to the South Dakota border for the Board of Regents, much narrower and taller. And then where, and where I live on the Board of Education, District 2 did not used to have Sarpy County in it, but now it does. And but then it had-- it excludes counties that wrap around Lancaster. Is that, that how the change was done for District 2, adding Sarpy and then subtracting what had to come off of that? And I'm talking about Board of Education map.

LINEHAN: OK, Board of Education. OK, I'm sorry. I was looking Board of Regents. So your question is?

CLEMENTS: Did District 2 use to have Sarpy in it? I'm pretty sure it--

LINEHAN: It still has Sarpy.

CLEMENTS: No, it did not. Currently does not.

LINEHAN: Yeah, it does.

CLEMENTS: It does? OK. OK, just that the district grew enough that it had to exclude a number of counties that used to be in all the way south and around apparently.

LINEHAN: I think I can-- can I address that question, I think?

CLEMENTS: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

LINEHAN: So one of the incumbents lives in Sarpy County. So you didn't have to go into Douglas County.

CLEMENTS: Oh, excuse me. I currently live in District 5 State Board. And, you know, so I'm getting, Cass County is getting kicked out of 5 and it's now in 2. That's what it is. And District 5 has moved to the south border for State Board of Education. And I'm very sure that I have been in District 5, but I don't have the current map with me, but that's what I'm thinking. And so when we look at the Board of Regents, District 5 for Board of Regents still includes Cass County, where I live. And that looks much more like how the current state board is. So I see there was quite a bit of difference in the way District 2 and 5 changed from Board of Regents and State Board of Education. And I think that answers my question, because District 5 is-- Board of Regents looks like the same, almost the same as it is now. State Board is what has changed. Since I only got these two minutes ago, it was hard to form a good question, but I think I've figured it out just brainstorming. So thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Clements and Senator Linehan. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Linehan, you're welcome to close on AM39. Senator Linehan waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of AM39. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 46 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

HUGHES: AM39 is adopted. Discussion is now open on LB8. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Linehan, you're welcome to close. Senator Linehan waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of LB8-- or the advancement of LB8 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 47 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB8.

HUGHES: LB8 is advanced. Colleagues, we are going to stand at ease a little bit, for a little bit, again, waiting on some paperwork to come down. Senator Wayne, you are recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I just realized I will never probably get the chance to do this again because we're never here in September. So I am going to engrain forever in the record that today is my son's birthday. He turns three, and his name is Justin

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

Thomas Wayne, Jr., so he hopefully will do a lot better than me. And with that, it's in the record. Thanks.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Colleagues, we will continue standing at ease. Senator Aguilar, you're recognized.

AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to share with our colleagues while we have a minute here, making sure you all understand we just finished-- or are about to finish a very complicated process and we did it by negotiation. Now, there's no reason we can't do complicated legislation the same way, through negotiation. It works. Quite honestly, we don't need a filibuster. We can work things out if we work together as a group, just like we did on this process. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. We are still at ease. Senator McCollister, you're recognized.

McCOLLISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Point of personal privilege. Thank you, Mr. President. We're passing out a sheet that shows the population in our Nebraska prison system. And as you will see, in 1980, we had 1,402 people on our prison system. And now in 2021, there's 5,596, 5,596. That's a lot more people in our prison system. Why did that occur, we may ask? Well, I would contend that three strikes you're out, they throw away the key after you've offended, that kind of strategy and sentencing practices have brought so many people in our prisons. The marijuana laws that we have, in which they compound the single possession of marijuana with all other kinds of offenses. That is why we have so many people in our prison system that shouldn't be there. My bill, LB269, would add all parole-eligible committed offenders who have been incarcerated for more than 30 years to the Parole Board's annual record review. We should also require the board to annually publish a list of committed offenders who are 60 years and over and have been convicted of nonviolent offenses that have a high-risk medical conditions or could be considered for early parole. We-- when I presented this bill to the Judiciary Committee, it received zero opposition testimony and zero letters of opposition submitted to the committee to be read into the record. In 2017, ACLU article asserted that 63 percent of prisoners in Nebraska are nonviolent offenders. We need to do something in our prison system, colleagues. There's no excuse. We are complicit with the administration in not doing something to deal with this. And I hope that this year, in the next session, we can deal with this in a positive way. Thank you, colleagues.

HUGHES: Mr. Clerk, for items.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

CLERK: I have no items at this time, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next item, LB3 introduced by the Redistricting Committee. It's a bill for an act to set the district boundaries of the legislative districts by the adoption of maps by reference. The bill has been discussed as recently as, I believe, Monday, September 20, thank you. At this time, Mr. President, Senator Hughes, you had a reconsideration motion pending. I understand you wish to withdraw. Mr. President, Senator Hansen has pending AM26. Senator Kolterman, you need to agree, since we had adopted yours-- you want to withdraw? Senator Hansen, withdraw. Mr. President, then the next amendment I have is by Senator Wayne, AM37.

HUGHES: Senator Wayne, you're recognized to open on AM37.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, colleagues. First, we were trying to decide how we would signal to the world that we came to an agreement. We couldn't light off black smoke or white smoke, they wouldn't let us burn a fire up at the top of the-- while the construction was going on. So we have decided that we are going to allow Trevor to sing "No Didditty [PHONETIC]" in the Chamber for karaoke. We're working with Patrick to get that done. In all honesty, guys-- in all honesty, colleagues, I really appreciate everybody's willingness to talk, to compromise, to fight for their districts, to make sure that we understood those districts. And I want to give a special thanks to the Redistricting Committee and the amount of work that they put in. Special thanks to Trevor and LRO for the number of hours that they put in. But I am going to take a few minutes to give some background on why things happen. So before getting into my proposal, I want to remind the Legislature we adopted LR134, and in that LR134 we said it's important not only to follow, follow the Constitution, but to-- districts should follow county lines whenever practical. Districts should be compact and contiguous, the boundaries must be easy identifiable to voters, allow the preservation of the core, coincide with city and villages. And one we added this year, which is actually one of the more difficult ones, but one of the most important ones, was to preserve the communities of interest. District boundaries should also not be established with the intentions of favoring one political party or one political group over another. And in fact, no consideration should be given to the political affiliation of registered voters, demographic-- demographic information other than population, district boundaries, which would result in unlawful dilution of the voting strength of any minority shall not be established. And we tried to create equal districts that are

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

substantially equal in population. So here is the background, and I need to read this in the record for many reasons. And the 2020 census revealed that Nebraska population has shifted heavily from the west to the east, and this is made clear by the legislative districts that have seen the highest gain and losses in population since 2010. Four districts in the western suffering the most population loss: LD47, LD42, LD44 and LD43. Anywhere from 15 percent in LD47, 13 percent in LD42, 13 percent in LD44 and 11 percent in LD43. Meanwhile, in western Douglas and Sarpy County, LD39 gained 48.7 percent. Gained LD-- I'm sorry, LD39, yeah. LD49 gained 31.1 percent and LD10 gained 30 percent. In light of these significant shifts, in order to ensure that we have the following-- we meet the following redistricting criteria that we have already adopted across the entire state, the committee agreed that we must move one legislative district from the areas from the least populated to areas to the most growth. Throughout conversations and multiple negotiations and throughout listening to the public on the three congressional district tour, we have, we have moved District 36 to the east. It was a difficult decision and is nothing personal against the Senator who was sitting there, but we heard the concerns from the original LB4 of moving Senator-- LD44 to the east and the number of representation east-- or I mean west of Kearney. We were also trying to figure out a way to make it work. We used a very similar criteria that was always used in the last 30 years looking at senators who at that time were not running, and 10 years ago who was term-limited and this year who were term-limited. Ten years ago, we used the same criteria and moved LD49, Senator Loudon, to the Sarpy County area. That is the same criteria that we used when making the decision today. Under this plan, the highest population areas, western Sarpy and Douglas County, would gain a legislative district. We represented that Gretna, Springfield and Waterloo, we tried to put them in the same, but because of the community of interests, Waterloo was not added, but Gretna and Springfield would have a legislative district. We tried to maintain counties by making sure many counties were not split in the process. We also looked at the community of interests from the reservation perspective and made sure that areas were not split. Lancaster County went under similar observations and criteria checks, and you'll notice some of those changes on the map in front of you. The point of this and this background is that there was significant population shift. There was multiple hours, days of talking to multiple Senators to make sure their community of interests was heard and trying to preserve the best we could. The maps you've seen before you, we are open to more suggestions. We are looking for those suggestions to be turned in by noon on Sunday, but we have conceptually in front of you a solid agreement to move forward. Not everybody gets what they want. Not

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

everybody loses what they have. It is what's best for Nebraska. And I want to point out, while most states decided to punt this issue to next year, while many states decided they might not even take it up until the fall of next year, Nebraska decided to lead the way. We decided to buckle down and get it done this year without having to cause confusions for our local political subdivisions, without having to call confusion to our communities on when elections will be. Because if we do not meet this deadline, we will have to talk about moving the primaries. Many states are doing that, causing huge voter confusion, and the process has already started. So I think we all should take a moment just to step back and realize that Nebraska is leading the way on this. And that is why I will ask for you to green vote on AM37. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Discussion is now open on AM37. Senator Kolterman, you're recognized.

KOLTLERMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, we've been through a tough time the last ten days. Leading up to today, there's been a lot of negotiations going on. I'd personally like to thank Senator Linehan and Senator Wayne and the rest of the committee that worked hard, very hard on this redistricting process. I think at the end of the day, as Senator Aguilar said, we can work together, we can come together and we can make progress and, and negotiate things. As this has been done, there's been partisanship, but at the end of the day, we all-- we are all coming together. But at this time, there's two, two senators that I think that need some special recognition, because they're both-- they both, and they're from both different parties, but they're both very willing to negotiate and give up some. So Senator Wendy DeBoer, she's running for reelection, I assume, and her district probably changes as much as anybody's. And I think she deserves the credit for stepping up and saying, let's make this happen. And then the other person who's a very, very close friend of mine, he's a real statesman. He's actually merging his district with another district and giving up some-- a position there, Senator Matt Williams. I'd like to personally thank both of them, and I think they both deserve a real round of applause.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. Senator Williams, you're recognized.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. I didn't expect a standing ovation before I even spoke. Usually those come when you're finished speaking, maybe. Thank you, colleagues. I appreciate having the opportunity to, to say some words about the legislative district that I have served. But more importantly, I would like to, again, as Senator Kolterman

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

mentioned, thank the Redistricting Committee, especially, Senator Linehan. And especially for a call that I received Sunday evening from Senator Linehan, which was very helpful and instrumental in me, in causing me to rethink some things and doing what I believe is clearly the right thing to do. You know, we make a lot of tough decisions down here. We sit around and do a lot of things. And I have a very dear friend who is a doctor of psychology that has written a number of books, and he has come to the conclusion that human beings will react in only one of three ways when faced with adversity. They will either quit or they will blame or they will step up and accept the responsibility of working together for positive change. We've seen-- I've seen the best and the worst in this group in the last week in here, and I choose to look at the best of this group, not the worst. So I appreciate those that have been willing to step up, not quit, not take your ball and go home, not say heck no to everything, those that have pointed fingers and said, it's going to be somebody else that's going to fix this, not my district. I'm proud of those that are willing to step up. In stepping up, there are three things that were of significant concern to me that were must-haves in this process. The first one is about the legislative district that I serve, that those counties that are dear to me and dear to themselves and have high-quality leadership are kept together in a form that would work for them and strengthen their ability to be anchor counties in the districts that they will serve now. Second thing was that this entire process had to be fair, balanced, and there had to be an agreement by both parties to come to the solution that we are looking at today with LB3 as amended by AM37. I would not be willing to do this if that had not happened. The third thing is that I think it is imperative that we do our best as senators to get this done in this special session and this time frame and not push this to January. I've talked to numerous people that are considering running for this body, and there's other people that are looking to be elected to other groups. And I think it's important that we give them the opportunity, the clarity of what's going to be happening, and that's what we are accomplishing. Those three things are happening here. I'm very proud of my legislative district, and I know each one of us as Senators feels that way. In my case, I've chosen to focus on the bigger picture than thinking about-- by thinking about the whole state, along with the constituents of District 36. In contemplating a solution, I concluded that what is most important in creating a District--

HUGHES: One minute.

WILLIAMS: --is that it leads to a strong representation for the current constituents. I believe LB3 accomplishes this goal. Custer

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

County as a whole moves back to Legislative District 43 and becomes an anchor of that district. Dawson County remains whole and becomes the anchor of Legislative District 44. This clearly maintains commonality of interest. Buffalo County stays with counties of-- of commonalities for it. A wise person once told me that democracy only works when you're willing to engage in thoughtful compromise. As Senators, we are often faced with tough decisions. Do you make those decisions because they're popular, do you make those decisions because they're easy, or do you make those decisions because they're right? I'm making this decision because I believe it is the right decision for the state of Nebraska--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

WILLIAMS: --and for my constituents. Some of you may question my decision.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Williams. Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in opposition to AM37 and will not support it. I reluctantly support LB3 as written since that other amendment was withdrawn. We didn't need to give up another district in rural Nebraska. Senator Williams is too kind. We did not need to do it. LB3, as written, was the correct way to do it. We have disparities in occupations, weather, everything, LB24 [SIC], should have, as written, been the district chosen. It blended in well to the districts around it, it affected less area. I-- you know, the definition of peace, and everybody likes peace, is that somebody surrendered. I'm not willing to surrender. I'm not willing to forgo the support that rural Nebraska deserves. We continue to move things east and we say we, red, blue. But I continue to see in this body rural versus urban. I seen all economic development as the urban red and blue supported growth in eastern Nebraska, \$300 million for a hospital. I like to throw that example, \$50 million for a military base. And then my fellow Republicans every 10 years wring their hands and say why? We got to redistrict, we got to move things east. Well, we know the answer why. You didn't support us. You didn't support rural Nebraska like you could have for growth. You became parochial and it was about the east, and then it grows. I passed-- and this could easily wait. I'm telling you right now, there are people in Custer County and Dawson County throwing up their hands and saying,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

what? What's going on down there? Nobody told me. Nobody let us reply that you gave up our district. You took our district, and we seen LB3 and we were saved. We were not thrown under the bus. Overnight, people in those districts, in that district don't exist anymore. They've been moved. And we're going to vote on it because we found peace. Somebody surrendered. I handed out a handout, where my staff and I took numbers off of the Secretary of State's. The first-- there's two spreadsheets, they're stapled together. The first one is voter registration, second-to-last column, the last column is the new Census Bureau numbers. And of course, one, two and three you can see is, is District 39, 49 and 10, Linehan, Day and DeBoer just happened to be the representatives there. Most registration, and they also have the largest population, so it makes a little sense. But then you go to the back end and I had made the comment about our Constitution and that they use the antiquated term "aliens" and nowadays we call them nonresidents, noncitizens, and it mentioned college students. We talk about zero deviations. Well, Senator-- legislative 7 has the high concentration of immigrants, resettlement immigrants, and it only has 16,600 registered voters versus the top one of 40,500. Then you look at the second one, that's the heart of the University of Nebraska, only 17,000, because--

HUGHES: One minute.

GROENE: --the Census Bureau counts students from North Platte, from Dawson County, from Custer County, and then we reapportion them as if they lived there, when they're actually registered back in North Platte. And we say, well we're-- there is one district in eastern Nebraska, an additional one because of these noncitizens and students. You already got a gift to eastern Nebraska and now you're getting another district. You took our kids, you took the immigrants-- and I'll talk later and finish this in another statement.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Erdman, you're recognized.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon. I listened to Senator Williams, so you will be able to determine whether I'm in the worst group or the best group. Won't be difficult for you to figure that one out. I'm opposed to AM37 and LB3. Senator Clements and Senator Bostelman worked tirelessly to draw a map. That map kept every core district whole, only divided 11 counties, and was a map that I could support because we didn't have to take Senator Williams' district. That, that map was never allowed to be circulated to all members of the body. So you have-- some of you have no idea what I'm talking about. They had 29 people supporting that amendment, that map. So what we're going to do is we're going to disregard a majority of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

the legislation-- Legislature that wants to do a certain map and they don't get a chance to even talk about that one. So we have heard and we hear it every time somebody stands up to talk, except me, we're nonpartisan. You heard Senator Kolterman say, they're both from different parties. Yesterday morning, I asked someone when I came in the building, what do you think of Clements and Bostelman's map? And they said, it creates four more Democratic districts. I thought we were nonpartisan. And then the Republicans say we have this many red districts. I thought we were nonpartisan. We have never been nonpartisan. So get over using that description, because it does not fit. So we say we had hearings in every congressional district. We had them way out west in Grand Island. Did we have any in North Platte or Scottsbluff or Ogallala or Broken Bow? Did we have any out west, where people who are disenfranchised with getting involved in the government because they live so far away? No, we didn't. But we lined them up down the street in Omaha to come in and testify because it's easy, they live there. So we whine about how many more people the eastern part of the state got. And so if you live in Senator John Cavanaugh's district, and it's two miles by three miles and there's 40,000 people, it's a lot easier to represent 40,000 people in six square miles than it is for Senator Brewer to represent 38,000 in 4,500 square miles. So we always talk about we want to protect the minority and those disadvantaged people, but when it comes to talking about allowing people from rural Nebraska that aren't-- that don't live in Lincoln an opportunity to get involved in government and have representation, we don't care about that. That map that Senator Clements and Bostelman put together was the map that we should be discussing today, but we're not. We're talking about LB3 that's going to be amended by AM37, which moves District 36 to Sarpy County. That is wrong. It's time for us as a Legislature to say once and for all, we need to be fair and honest about what we're doing. What we want to do is we want to move all of the authority, all of the power to the east and it's moving quite quickly. But you had a chance. You had an opportunity to give us a bone. You had a chance to throw us an opportunity to keep--

HUGHES: One minute.

ERDMAN: --the core districts. But now we don't get that. But we don't get to talk about Clements and Bostelman's map. We talk about what the Redistricting Committee put together, and it never considered that map. Twenty-nine votes they had, 29. And so when this gets to the end, if this goes all the way through and they've adopted this, this may pass and it may pass 48 to 1. Because I'm telling you right now, I'm not voting for cloture on this bill and I'm not voting for this bill. I don't care what form it comes in. If it takes a district out of the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

rural part of the state, a core district that's been there for years, I'm a no. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I am going to share with you something that my sister Colleen [PHONETIC] shared in reaction to all of the stories that she was seeing on social media about the mother's room. And I think it's pertinent to this conversation, not just because about the mother's room, but also about what we are talking about here, about legislative districts and representation. People say things like, I would never vote for someone just because they are a woman or black or Latinx or Native or LGBTQ-plus. And I agree, identity doesn't equal issue solidarity. But on the other hand, representation matters. When we are overrepresented by one demographic, this Legislature, we are underrepresented in others. And that doesn't allow for diversity of perspective and experience when it comes to decision making. In Nebraska this week, one man, one man in a position of power within the state Legislature made the unilateral decision to reassign a room that had been designated as a mothers room, a designated place for women working at or visiting the Capitol to nurse and change babies or pump. A private sanitary place with adequate-- adequate facilities to wash and sanitize supplies. This one man determined that another man needed office space, and this man's need for office space was a higher priority use for this room than its current use as a mother's room. Having office space is important and determining conflicting priorities is difficult. That's why it's so important to consult people with different experiences and perspectives to understand the points of view you aren't seeing. This man, an elected representative for the people of Nebraska, didn't think he needed anyone else's perspective in this decision. Not the perspective of the people affected by losing this space, nursing mothers who work at the Capitol, mothers visiting the statehood to testify before the elected body, or for tourists who might-- who would feel, like to feel welcome, not the fellow Senators that lobbied for and created the mother's room and not the private donor who paid to adapt the space for that use. He consulted the other man who requested the office space for his use. It talks about me here, but Machaela Cavanaugh moved out of her office into a common space to offer the space to the man who needed it so that the mother's room could remain available to the women who needed it. It's always important to look around to ask someone who might experience something differently than we do before making a decision that might affect them, and that's what I mean when

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

I say vote for, vote for women, BIPOC candidates, et cetera. So clearly we were raised in the same household. And my sister is a very strong writer and I appreciate her kind words of encouragement. I have a lot of stories to share and my stories and others, but I will start with that I have been contacted by people who were-- who have contacted the Exec Board to ask about the mother's room, and they have been told that it's OK because there aren't really very many expecting mothers in the building. My question is, when did the Legislature start taking pregnancy tests of staff and visitors and the lobby? What a wildly inappropriate excuse. You have no idea who is an expecting mother unless you have been informed. You have no idea who's going through IVF unless you have been informed. And you have no idea who needs to express milk at what time unless you have been informed. And let me tell you, gentlemen, just gentlemen, it is not appropriate. It is not appropriate to ask women that question, any of the questions. It is so disturbing to me that I am still talking about this. This is the easiest thing to fix.

HUGHES: One minute.

M. CAVANAUGH: Take my office or don't take my office. My office cannot be used for a mother's room, it doesn't have a sink. It doesn't have a private sink. Otherwise, I would tell every woman in the state of Nebraska to come on through whenever you like. But it's not an appropriate space. So we're going to keep talking about it and we're going to keep hearing about it until this is fixed. This is a fixable problem. This is not complicated, it's not rocket science, it's not even redistricting, it is the easiest thing for us to fix. And it is ludicrous that we have been with this for three days and there's not even a discussion or a mention from the people in charge that can make that happen. No one has said on the record that, yes, we will fix this. No one. I've just been criticized and this has been diminished--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

M. CAVANAUGH: --but I will tell you that I won't diminish it and the public won't diminish it. This is not--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Morfeld, you're recognized.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

MORFELD: Thank you, Mr. President. First, colleagues, I'm in support of finding some solution to the mother's room. Just want to go on the record of that. I think that that is something that needs to be remedied. There's a lot of space in the Capitol. It's absurd that we're even at that point talking about it. That being said, I want to talk a little bit about redistricting and the process. I will tell you that I'm only 36, maybe 37, I can't remember, but this has been the toughest thing and the toughest process that I've ever been involved with. There's a lot of people in this room have spent literally hours in the map room, usually on the weekends. And it's been a really intense process. It's been one where I've learned a lot about different political subdivisions and people's districts, some useless knowledge that I'll probably never use again in many cases, but important knowledge and important to the people of the state of Nebraska to ensure that we have equal representation. So I just want to thank everybody who worked on the maps, people who took calls from members of the Redistricting Committee very late at night and also recognized that this is not perfect. There's a lot of things in here that I like, there's a lot of things in here that I don't like. But that's probably the sign of a good compromise for all of us, and I'm glad that we came together, despite a lot of frustration that I'm sure still exists among some, and we're able to achieve it for the state of Nebraska. With that being said, I think my colleague, Senator Williams, wanted to make some final remarks as well, and I'm going to yield the rest of my time to him.

HUGHES: Senator Williams, 3:15.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Senator Morfeld. I wasn't quite finished, and I'm sorry about that, to have to come back to that. But I was talking about doing the right thing. And I mentioned that some of you may question my decision, but I turn the table and ask you, where were you? Were you willing to offer your district as a solution in this process? I started this by talking about the way human beings react when put in a tough spot. And for those of you that know me, and many of you do fairly closely, because I've served with you on a lot of things, and my constituents certainly know me, you know that I have never quit. I choose not to blame, and I will always step up and accept the responsibility to work together for positive change. That's me. That's the way I will be now, that's the way I'll be tomorrow. And I appreciate the fact that we are here today, and I encourage all of you to vote along with me to adopt LB3 as amended by AM37. Thank you, Mr. President.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

HUGHES: Thank you, Senators Morfeld and Williams. Senator Bostelman, you're recognized.

BOSTELMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. And good afternoon, colleagues, and good afternoon, Nebraska. I felt I should stand up and speak a little bit about-- address some of the comments that have been made on mike today. And first off, I really want to thank Senator Clements' staff and my staff: Dan Wiles, Mark Freeouf, Riley Herchen-- Herchenbach. They have put in probably 100 hours on the computer, weekends, evenings. We've sat down with them in the vault downstairs, tremendous amount of time, tremendous amount of work. And we've tried with our map, we have tried to answer the questions we've heard by many of you on the floor. I don't believe, and with all due respect, I am very appreciative of what the Redistricting Committee does do. I understand the time it takes. I understand how hard it is to change the maps, how to work with the maps. But we feel that we've got a map that represents the state of Nebraska the way it should be without losing any district. And I think that's important for us to continue to keep in mind, because when we talk about rural Nebraska, we've got people in those areas that need represented. Whether it be for education reasons, whether it be for telehealth, telemedicine, whether it be for roads, we need to have senators. We need to have people representing those in the western part of our state and all parts of our state. Now, let me be clear, my map that we've drawn-- sorry, Senator Clements' map and the one that we've worked on really cuts my district up. So I'm not benefiting anything for myself and my district by right, by, by what I put out there. The one that the Redistricting Committee does, keeps my, my district a lot better whole, if you will, than what, than what my map does. What we worked on day and night and weekends was keeping representation in rural Nebraska. And if you're a senator who represents rural Nebraska, that should mean something to you and that should be important. I'm not fighting for my specific district, if you will. I'm trying to ensure-- we're trying to ensure that there's representation for all Nebraskans, not lumping a group of senators in one end of the state, but making sure we have represent-- representation across the state for every Nebraskan. Because there's things that happen in the western part of the state, I'm sure, Senator Hughes, Senator Erdman, Senator Groene, can tell you that we don't understand on this side of the state-- how they do agriculture in their communities, what water issues they deal with. We don't have that same experience on this end of the state that they have on that end of the state, and that representation should stay out there, needs to be out there. But yet, that's not what the Redistricting Committee decided to do, and I respect that. The body will do what seems right to move forward. I'm not 100 percent sure what the map looks like,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

because I'm not so sure we've got one on the floor right now that represents the amendment. So I'm very concerned about that and very concerned that, that we do make sure everyone in the state of Nebraska has that proper representation. And if that means a senator on the eastern side of the state has a few more people, a thousand, two thousand more people than the senator on the western part of the state--

HUGHES: One minute.

BOSTELMAN: --so be it. But that senator on the western part of the state, Senator Brewer, he's got to drive 200 to 300 miles, 400 miles to reach all of his constituents, and that's important to them. So as we move-- as you move forward, and I fully would expect the bill, the amendment and the bill to move forward, but I think we need to remember that. Because there is a big difference between the eastern end of the state, western end of the state, and we see that in many things that we do here in the body. And I just hate to lose that. And that's why we work so hard. And I want to thank both Senator Clements' staff and my staff for the countless hours of work and frustration they had on those maps. They did a great job. They did a yeoman's job. And I wish that it was, it was maybe in a better place as far as being able to work on a little bit longer, we just--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

BOSTELMAN: --we just had too short of a time. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Bostelman. Senator Clements, you're recognized.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. I thought Senator Williams was next. He must have said everything he wanted to say. Guess I'd like to get up and speak about some of the work that we have done. When we started this process not very many days ago, they said it was impossible to keep all the legislative districts intact. Well, the word impossible is not a word you should say to my staff. So Dan sat down on a mapping software and he started working on it and figured it out. And after dozens of hours and many revisions, we found a way that we had the populations correct with the deviations, and all the current senators were still in their core districts. The cores were all preserved, which is one of our guidelines. Now, the one thing I've got a problem with that the current proposal is, I am, I am up for election and my district has about 15,000 people in Sarpy County right now. And that's being erased, and sending me west into Lancaster

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

County, 15,000 people I don't know. And thousands of doors in Sarpy County I knocked on and voted for me are going to be gone. I'll have to introduce myself by next May 10th to a bunch of people that aren't aware of who I am. So-- and I had been shown a map yesterday that sent me into kind of a straight west of where I live. But today, thank you-- thanks to another Senator, they were showing me what today's map is and it completely changed. Not completely, but very much changed the Lancaster portion, of which I hadn't been informed of until, oh, a half hour ago or so. And it goes about 18 miles south, down to the Otoe County south line. And it's not even on the-- I'm looking at the Lancaster County map here. It goes off the bottom of the page, so it's hard to say exactly where that is. I have talked to the Speaker about that and he's willing to work on an amendment so that if this map passes. And so, I'm going to-- if this passes, I'm going to rely on that assurance that there is some adjustments that could be made to make it a little bit less painful. And so then back to the map that we were working on, it did have deviations greater in the east. And in the west, we're below average. The east was above average. But the census data we're using counts noncitizens, it's been mentioned before. That violates our Constitution. I read that from the Constitution the other day. And I've been surprised that we have had no discussion about the Constitution not being followed when we've been concentrating on little percentages of above and below the average population.

HUGHES: One minute.

CLEMENTS: And I am disappointed that we're not able to be given data that reflects what we're supposed to be using is citizens, Nebraska citizens, in our census mapping. And I think that would likely save all the districts where they are and not have to move to the east. I think it's my perception that the number of people that we're counting are heavily in the eastern part of the state. So I am not satisfied with the way the map is, especially how it's been moved around, and I just found that out today. And I'm going to have to continue to study it. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Clements. Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I really do want to thank Senator Bostelman and Senator Clements to show the-- I hope everybody has looked at their maps. Senator Wayne had said during the debate on LB3, the first time, he was going to turn some things we had said back on us. This isn't mean-spirited, but he was the one who started talking about saving the core of every district. The only map that does is the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

Bostelman-Clements map. Now, back to my graphs I sent out. If you look at that, this body spots urban Nebraska two districts before we even get started. District 48, or not-- 46 around the University of Nebraska, has only 17,000 registered voters versus 40,000 for the number one. The senator that sits there, and I talked to Senator Morfeld, this is no aversion to him, but when he ran in 2014, my first year, he only got 3,073 votes. And he won. Twenty-four out of 24, the lowest vote. I've looked at the four elections that I've been involved in since I've been here, that is the lowest vote total of any winner. In 2018 when we ran again, it was the lowest vote total when he won again. He gets to represent a district equal to the rest of us, that isn't fair. And in LR, whatever it was, LR137, one person, one vote? No, no. In that district, it's two persons, one vote because the university student is counted in, in that UNO district, UNL District, Kearney District, and they're counted again when they vote back home. Urban Nebraska starts this game two-- spotted with two districts because of the students and the illegal immigrants, noncitizens. Number two, well, the number one with the lowest, that is District 7 where Senator Vargas sits. When he ran in '16, his first year, he was the lowest vote total winning vote total out of 25 elections that year. That's where the immigrants are. Number three is Senator McDonnell, because he abuts right up against Vargas's and he has the second amount of immigrants, nonvoting immigrants. We spot them two districts right off the bat. But nobody said it. Our Constitution is ignored nationally and statewide, we're supposed to find out how many aliens are living in the state of Nebraska in each district and subtract them out. We don't do it. Just ignore the Constitution. I understand, the caveat is it's whatever the, the Census Bureau says, but Mr. Biden took that out. There is no nonresident count anymore. It's all blended in, in the census. So anyway, rural Nebraska again, carries the weight. We gave up a district when we should not have. Quite frankly, Senator Williams is too kind to even step forward. LB3, as written, was the right way to do it. I have discovered during this debate that we have partisan, I'm partisan. We have bipartisan, I call them Unicameralists. Now we have a couple of Senators that are I-partisan, where it's all about their district, all about their district.

HUGHES: One minute.

GROENE: And they got their way. They got their way. I can name a whole bunch of senators here that I never heard him say one thing about their district. I'm one of them. Whatever you have to do, move me north, move me, move us south, we'll do it. I didn't hear Senator Friesen complain. I didn't hear Senator Bostelman complain. I didn't

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

hear Senator Erdman complain. I-partisan is worse than partisan by far, but it pays to be an I-partisan senator because you get your way. And Senator Williams steps forward, takes a district away from western Nebraska. As Senator Bostelman said, we have a whole different issues out there, and those issues affect the whole state. That water issues out there affect the whole state with no representation. Very little at all.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

GROENE: Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Erdman, you're recognized.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate what Senator Clements said about the Constitution, the thing. Anybody ever hear somebody say about the thing? Anyway, I appreciate what he said. Senator Hughes told me when I first came five years ago, he said, I don't speak a whole lot on the floor because it doesn't appear that anything you say ever changes anybody's mind. And I may be simple, but I'm not that stupid to believe that what anybody has said here today against AM37 is going to change anybody's mind. But what my goal today is, I want people of Nebraska to understand that this did not have to happen. We did not have to move a district. Please hear that. We did not have to do that. There was a map drawn that saved every core district, but the minority won and they got another district. And so we can stand here and talk on the mike until 12:00 a.m. and we won't change anybody's mind. But I want the media to pick up on it, put it in your paper, print it. We did not have to make this change. It was not necessary. If we would have given an opportunity for the Clements-Bostelman map to be widely distributed when we started, we would bat-- we would be at a different place than we are now. But that's history. This bill is going to pass. This bill may pass 43 to 7, maybe more. But I want to make sure that every person, whether you live in Omaha, whether you live in Harrison, I don't care where you live, you need to understand that this map that we currently are discussing did not have to happen, and it's not something that we worked on together to come to this conclusion. There were people that said this is what we're going to do, and the majority of you will fall in line. And so my vote doesn't make a bit of difference on the outcome of this bill. But I'll tell you who it does make a difference to. It makes a difference to those people who live in Custer County. It makes a difference to those people who live in Dawson County. It makes a difference to those people who live west of Lincoln. They expected us to come here and represent them and stand up for their interests, and their interest is not to send District 36 to Sarpy County. But that's what we're going

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

to do. If you have any intestinal fortitude at all, vote red on this amendment, let us discuss Clements-Bostelman's amendment, their map, and make a commonsense decision just for once in this legislative body's life. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Pansing Brooks, you're recognized.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm standing to talk about the two statespeople that we have in our body. And I'm glad Senator Williams spoke. He spoke about doing the right thing and spoke about the fact that he offered his district as a solution. And I want to thank you, Senator Wills-- Williams, as do many of us, for that sacrifice. I've heard many comments during this whole process about not touching this district of mine or that district. And, you know, the theory of NIMBY, not in my backyard, has reigned supreme a lot in these discussions. But I want to talk for a minute about a humble, kind servant that is here within our body, and that's Senator DeBoer. She felt the same need to make a sacrifice for the common good of our state. Senator DeBoer makes this decision-- makes Senator DeBoer's election much more difficult. And she hasn't stood up to talk about it, so I decided I was going to talk about her sacrifice. It's more difficult, but you should talk with her and hear how determined she is to fight and represent her district. And I, among others, will be helping fight for her, for her strong ability to lead in this body. Senator DeBoer is, is, is a strong senator and she's a team player who has worked to make our state and Legislature stronger. Her humility in this decision should be seen as a strong and valuable decision and should never be seen as, as a type of weak acquiescence. Senator DeBoer, we are grateful to you. We all should be grateful to you. I certainly am. We would not be here today with the votes that we are taking if it weren't for the statesmanship and the leadership and the strength of Senator DeBoer as well as Senator Williams. So I just want us all to remember that Senator DeBoer exact, exactly exemplifies what public service looks like. So with that, I want to say thank you to Senator-- to Senator DeBoer and Senator Williams. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I probably won't speak any more today about this. I don't know what the intention is for those that oppose this amendment, but I'm not going to take up more time beyond this time. So there-- I've been getting a lot of emails, a lot of text messages, a lot of social media posts from women

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

who've worked in this building or currently work in this building. And if, if any of-- if, if, if we as women felt safe and secure to, to share this, the stories that they are telling me, I'm not surprised. As a state senator in this body, I did not have a mother's room. I did not have access to a sink in my office like some senators do. I have been in the same office until this week, since I was elected and sworn in. I have been always on the 11th floor. There is a public communal restroom. If you come up and visit the 11th floor, you will see a white cabinet in that restroom, a little, a little white cabinet with those little squares, you know, boxes. I purchased that cabinet and I purchased the, the drying rack next to that cabinet and the, the various scrubbing things, et cetera, et cetera, because I needed a place to clean my equipment. Now it's a pedestal sink in a common bathroom, public restroom. So I would always, like, wash the whole sink every time before I used it. So that was frustrating. I also would have to pump sometimes during the course of business, so I would have to turn my chair around in committee to put all of the equipment on so that I didn't have to leave the room to hear the floor debate. And then I would turn back around and I would always try and get my pump on the ground so that you couldn't hear the suction sound on the mike for the, for the transcribers. And then there was-- I remember there was a late night we had here. It was like we went till 11:00 p.m. or something, and I was hurting. I was so sore. I was like, I am going to leak through my clothes tonight, this is terrible. And so I finally pumped on the floor of the Legislature. So I sat right here, and I know for a fact that several of the gentlemen had no idea that that's what I was doing, came up and had long conversations with me. Yeah, it was, it was pretty funny. And then I had to find a refrigerator. And the refrigerator that I would use, because I didn't have a refrigerator in my office either, I couldn't afford to purchase one. I have been gifted one hand-me-down at the, now, but I used to use the refrigerator in the Clerk's Office that people put their lunches in, which is very nice that they were able to accommodate me to do that. I'm a senator, I am a state senator in this building, and that is what I had to do. And I could do it however I wanted because I am a senator, I didn't have to ask my boss's permission. And it was so frustrating and inconvenient and inconsiderate, and I didn't want women who work in this building or women who visit this building, I didn't want your constituents that you've been talking about--

HUGHES: One minute.

M. CAVANAUGH: --to have to come here and not have a place to pump or nurse or rest. If somebody comes from Tom Brewer's district to come testify on an issue and they are a nursing mother, they should have a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

comfortable space to park their stuff, first of all, so you're not hauling a big bag of parts and milk around the Capitol. And they should have a safe, dedicated space. That's what we are missing now. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Groene, you're recognized, and this is your third opportunity.

GROENE: Thank you. I'd like to remind everybody that LB3 on cloture had 27 votes. That was only 6 short. There was 4 of them who were undecided, who were present, not voting. I'm trying to figure out why we didn't pursue that a little further. But they just abandoned it and went in a totally different direction. But, and I said it to a group of senators, I noticed it, but didn't say anything because I was hoping that it would come out right. But there's only one senior out of 14 senators on that Redistricting Committee, and it's Senator Morfeld. And I will tell you this. I admire him. I heard he was tenacious in negotiations. I just wish he was a Republican. I wish we'd have had one Republican on that Redistricting Committee that was tenacious. And Senator Lathrop isn't any different and he was on that committee. We're too nice. There was no hardcore loud partisan on for, for the left on that committee. The junior class had seven positions on it, no sophomores, one freshman. Senator Lathrop apparently went back here because he forgot everything he learned the first time he was here. That's not collegial, folks, Exec Committee, that was not collegial. And as far as the smartest man in it on there, Senator Wayne did a fine job, he was-- I think he defended the Republican side more than the Republicans did. But it's over with. Senator Erdman said that you can't change any minds. Maybe what is said here, maybe in the future, in the future, when you pass laws, your economic development, you consider the whole state and you consider more projects and more-- and we got a, we got a bill-- over a billion dollars coming up with CARES money. Let's put the majority of that in rural Nebraska for growth, for industrial growth. Let's cut property taxes more instead of cutting corporate income taxes for, again, the corporations in eastern Nebraska. Let's grow the state and then let's figure out how we're going to fix these two or three districts that the urban are spotted because of the college students and the, and the noncitizens. And how we're going to move, we can make an exception into our law, I guess, how we do that, maybe the Constitution. But we're facing a crisis where we're not going to have a voice of a large chunk of Nebraska, 80 percent of it, which is rural. So that said, like I said, I am not going to support AM37, it's distorted. If you look at Senator Moser's district, I don't know what you call that little pathway in there. Is that, are we going to call that the "Moser Gap" or the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

"Moser Canal", how he gets from Platte County up into Stanton County. Talk about gerrymandering, to get where you want to go. And some of the urban districts are pretty well manufactured too.

HUGHES: One minute.

GROENE: I'm going to stand and always support who I am and who the base of Nebraska is, rural Nebraska. You know, a lot of those folks moving east because you created the jobs there came from North Platte, came from Scottsbluff? 'Cause that's where we created the jobs. And their districts went with them. So anyway, I know where the vote is, but I will give a protest vote against AM37. And AM37, God does work in strange ways. Loses? I will support LB3 as written, but not as amended. So I appreciate that, and thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Pansing Brooks, you're recognized.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President. I am standing first all, of all, to say that this is sausage-making. I don't think anybody's truly happy with what has happened today. Sorry, I'm choking. I'm sorry. Anyway, I'm going to have to stop for a second, sorry. I need to get a drink.

HUGHES: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator Blood, you're recognized.

BLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President. I was just making sure Senator Pansing Brooks is OK. Fellow senators, friends all, since we're obviously just kind of chatting on the mike, killing time, I've been sitting quietly in the dark listening to everybody on the mike. And there's something that I want to clarify. It was intimated that certain Republican senators on the Redistricting Committee didn't fight or weren't strong leaders. I can't remember the phrasing that was used, because like most people on the Redistricting Committee, I'm going on like four hours of sleep. But I want to tell you that for me, my experience, and I'm not speaking for other people, and I think it's weird when people talk about what happened in a room that they were never in. They must have a crystal ball and they can tell what's going on in that crystal ball. Because I can tell you, I was in the room, and what I saw was bipartisan cooperation. Did everybody get what they wanted? Certainly not. But some got what they wanted. And that's a good thing. And there were many senators in that room standing up for rural Nebraska. There was nobody standing against rural Nebraska. And to think that in some way that they might have been weak and not spoken up is ridiculous and misinformation. It's ridiculous, huh,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

Senator Lowe? You look as tired as I feel. You know the, the weird thing about this mike is that it's a bully pulpit and that allows us to really talk about issues that we might not have the opportunity to talk about to the public outside of these chambers. But it's also an opportunity for people to use logical fallacies. In other words, they're going to tell you something that isn't necessarily true to try and sway what you believe about particular topics or about what happens in a room. And so here I just want to make sure for those that are from rural Nebraska, and by the way, I was raised in rural Nebraska, that's not what happened. You had strong voices in that committee, strong voices that were respectful to other voices. Urban voices were respectful to the rural people and their voices, and vice versa. Don't be fooled into thinking that something else happened, because unless that person was in the room, they don't know. Senator Briese was in the room, his voice was strong. Senator Geist was in the room, her voice was strong. Senator Linehan, Senator Wayne, Senator Lathrop, Senator Morfeld, Senator Hilgers, Speaker Hilgers. And if I forgot anybody, I apologize. Well, I already pointed Lowe out earlier, so he doesn't get two, two shout-outs. So we're all tired. We're just barely hanging on. But I want people to feel comfortable to know that there was dialogue and there was a thoughtful process. And I don't care if the people in the room are Republican or Democrats, everybody worked their butts off and did the best they possibly could. So let's not be too critical. We did what we set out to do, we worked together in a bipartisan fashion. I'm sorry that not everybody likes the results. There are things I don't like about the maps, too, but that doesn't give me the right to stand and insult people that worked so hard to try and accomplish something in a very small window of time. I know for me, I was on the phone till almost midnight last night talking to people. This has been a really hard--

HUGHES: One minute.

BLOOD: --really tiring process. With that, I would yield any time I have left to Senator Pansing Brooks.

HUGHES: Senator Pansing Brooks, 50 seconds.

PANSING BROOKS: OK, thank you, Senator Blood. Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I didn't choke to death and shuffle off the mortal coil. So I'm sorry about the last time I was up. Some of you may have had your fingers crossed that this was the end, but I'm back up. So I wanted to say again a little bit about what Senator Blood was saying. There are things that I am very unhappy about. I don't like what's happened to Senator DeBoer. I don't like that, that Senator, my friend, Senator Williams, has given up his district. There are a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

number of things that are not perfect. But again, this is sausage-making, and this isn't one group having more power over another group. It is, as Senator Aguilar said, a really important thing that we have done to work together and negotiate and we've--

HUGHES: That's time, Senator. But you are next in the queue. You may continue.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you. So we have, we have people-- we've had people working for us too, day and night, late into the night. Some people responding at 2:00 a.m. saying, I just left the Capitol, here's what we think is happening. And every day there was some new change, and it was, it was very difficult to follow. So for those of you that are in the, in our, in our state watching this, a lot of people put a lot of time. And is it perfect? Absolutely not. Could I draw the perfect map for my district? You bet. So could Senator Lowe, so could everybody here. So don't listen to this verbiage that some group has more power than another. There were, there were efforts-- there is a group that has more power than another. The conservatives have more power, but we've worked together. Now on to the second thing that I wanted to talk about, and that is the nursing mothers' room. I, the-- I want to thank Senator Cavanaugh, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, for bringing this up. When she first brought it up, we were begged by the Speaker not to go forward and discuss this anymore because he was concerned of the time that was necessary to get this redistricting and mapping done. So I acquiesced. I backed off and said, I'm not going to-- I will not do it. But we are not done. Then in executive committee-- in the Executive Board, I brought it up again and said, I want this on the agenda. And we are not done with this issue. There are a number of women who have not spoken in the body that feel strongly. I'm grateful that Senator Morfeld expressed his support. And this is probably one of the more amazing things that we've done. I think that, I think it's illegal. The money for the nursing room was given as a gift to the, to the Capitol. So I'd like to have a legal opinion about why it is that that money was given and now it is not being used for that. That's number one. Number two, for those of you men who think this is just nothing and, well, we have the pod, maybe I better go into some detail. Now that we've gone through COVID, we all understand the importance of handwashing, right? Well, if I can't wash my hands and I have to take my shirt off and then get my baby's mouth on my nipple with unwashed hands-- yeah, I said the word nipple. That is inappropriate to expect us to do that. Have a baby yourself and then to tell me why this is nothing. I actually had one person, and I'm not going to call them out specifically yet, but I may later, tell me that that room was only used 40 hours last year. Forty hours.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

Number one, who the heck is taking a time-- is taking, is timing how long people are in that room? Is somebody sitting there with a stopwatch about how long a woman goes in to take care of her baby? My response was, how many hours are the ADA ramps being used? I'd like to know that, that answer. So, again, I was told in Exec, let's not talk about it now. We don't have time, we have to hurry up and meet. All, all the people were there. Senator Lathrop had to go meet Senator, Speaker Hilgers. People had to go meet.

HUGHES: One minute.

PANSING BROOKS: So I acquiesced again. But I'm tired of it. This is unreasonable. I don't believe it's legal. And we have accepted a gift in this body of somebody who did pay for the room to be set up. And now all of a sudden, well, it will be, you know, when the, when the reconstruction is done, it will go back again. Well, that could be, what, two years? And Senator Cavanaugh is correct, we have no idea who is pregnant. We have no idea who is nursing or needing the milk for, you know, it's true. If Senator Brewer or Senator Lowe has a constituent to come and she needs to express her milk, how is she supposed to do that? Where is she supposed to do that?

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr.--

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you are recognized, and this is your third opportunity.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you. I know I said I was done talking. This is going to be very brief. I'm going to talk about this more the next time we are here. But there's been a lot of discussion about the pod. So I went down to the pod, I used the key code that I was told was the key code. It did not work. Then I tried to download the app. I couldn't download the app while I was standing there. It wasn't, it wouldn't download. About two hours later, I was able to download the app, but now I have to create a profile. I'm fortunate enough to have, be able to access the data on my phone and to create a profile. But the next step I'm going to take is to find out if the information desk has a key so that you can use the pod, because the pod is not very easy and there's no signage that says that if you don't have a phone or a way to do the app, that you should go get the key from the information desk. So just wanted that said. There will be more next week. Thanks.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Day, you're recognized.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

DAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Pansing Brooks.

HUGHES: Senator Pansing Brooks, 4:45.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Day. Thank you, Mr. President. I just, I forgot that when I coughed, that was one of my times that already counted. So what, what I want to say is, this can be handled. There are rooms in this capitol where, where we could figure this out. I think Speaker Hilgers, if, if he would just say, we will figure it out, we would settle down on this. But I think that this will continue until somebody says we will handle this. So I know nobody really wants to talk about, we want to get done. I'm happy to, to sit down now. But we will continue to bring this up. And I know that Senator Hunt spoke last time as well. This will continue to rise till we figure something out. So thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Wayne, you're recognized to close on AM37.

WAYNE: Can I have a call of the house?

HUGHES: Colleagues, there's been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay.

WAYNE: Hello. Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I won't go through and rehash--

HUGHES: Senator. I'm sorry, Senator Wayne, please hold just a second. We're still doing-- the house is under call? Yes. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 6 nays to place the house under call.

HUGHES: The house is under call. All senators are required to return to the Chamber. The house is under call. You may proceed, Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, again, I want to thank everybody who was involved in this process. I want to thank the leadership of the Speaker calling us all together. For those who don't know, last night was a little shaky. We weren't sure where we were going to be. We regrouped. And I want to thank their legislative-- or the Redistricting Committee for letting us get a good night's sleep and having a great conversation again this morning. So I won't belabor the point. I think this was a long, tedious and difficult and a lot of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

other things process. But what I will say to end this for today is hours don't happy themselves. So let's go have happy hour. Have a good day.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of AM37. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 5 nays to adopt the amendment.

HUGHES: The amendment is adopted. Senator Linehan, you're recognized to close on LB3.

LINEHAN: I'll be better at this when we get to Select, but again, I want to thank everybody in Legislative Research, all the staff that worked on this, including Senator Clements and Senator Bostelman's staff, Senator Wayne's staff. Lots of staff in this building were involved. My own staff, not just Grant, but the rest of my staff who have been here early in the morning and stayed at night. And I want to thank every member of this Legislature. This has been tough. I thank you all for being here today. I'm especially thankful, hopefully the Speaker will let us have the weekend off. And the committee and especially Vice Chair Wayne. So with that, I would ask for your green vote on LB3. Thank you very much. Have a good weekend.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Colleagues, the question before us is the advancement to LB3 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed to vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of the bill.

HUGHES: LB3 is advanced to E&R Initial. Speaker Hilgers, for an announcement.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good evening again, colleagues. I'll be very brief. Thank you again for all the work this week. I did want to give you an update as to what's going to happen over the next couple of days. First and foremost, we are off tomorrow. So well, a well-earned break. I really, I really appreciate all the great work and I hope everyone enjoys their weekend. Monday will be a recess day, so we won't come in Monday. We will check in. I think we'll come in on Tuesday, probably 10:00 in the morning for Select File. If you have any issues, questions. I know we've had a few senators, Senator Clements in particular. There's a couple others who have asked some questions about maybe some slight boundary changes. I think Senator Wayne asked to have those all in by Sunday by noon to the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 24, 2021

Redistricting Committee. So I'd highly encourage you to do that. And on Monday, we'll be in the office working through any of those potential changes. So Monday we'll do that, recess day. Tuesday will be Select File. Wednesday will be the layover day, and then Thursday we'll have Final Reading. So that will be the schedule over the next week. Thank you very much. Have a great weekend.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. I raise the call. Mr. Clerk, for items.

CLERK: Mr. President, the lobby report as required by statute to be filed and acknowledgment of agency reports. Senator Hilgers would move to adjourn the body until Tuesday morning, September 28, at 10:00 a.m.

HUGHES: Colleagues, you've all heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. We are adjourned.