

March 12, 1981

LB 290

and he indicated his only request for bids be on the current system with the 3M company. I asked the Attorney General for an opinion to determine if 290 was needed in order for the state to take competitive bids for both systems. And in the opinion of the Attorney General, the change in the language in the statutes is necessary. LB 290 and the committee amendments give the Director of Motor Vehicles the necessary authority and directs him to take bids on both systems. By opening up the competition for the large contract, the State of Nebraska could be able to save as much as \$2 million over the next six-years issue of the plates. LB 290 does not get into the elements of durability, legibility, visibility and so forth because the specifications that will be issued for the two systems of the Department of Motor Vehicles will cover these important elements. I can assure you after almost two years of study on license plates both systems are excellent. Both systems are durable, legible, visible at night and meet the state's visibility statutes. I chaired a subcommittee for the Public Works Committee last year and conducted extensive investigation on the independent studies of the two license plate system on reflectorization. I personally went with Pete Peterson, Director of Motor Vehicles, to the State of Michigan to review their studies and to see firsthand how they produced their system of license plates which reflectorize the letters and numerals at their State Penitentiary. Michigan has been using their system for over nine years and are saving almost nine million dollars every three years by going to a system of reflectorized letters and numerals. Their studies and investigation show how they have durability, legibility, and visibility necessary to provide proper vehicle identification and controlled motor vehicle registration. During the interim study, I contacted those states that are reflectorized with letters and numerals to find out their experience...what their experience was as a system, and to see if their system is durable, legible, and visible. All states reported that their systems are holding up extremely well, that they are not having any problem in production or with durability, and that there is no problem with keeping their plates clean. It is important to know that both Colorado and Connecticut have been using the system of numerals for five years and have extended the issue to six. I received a letter yesterday from Colorado that they are going from five to ten years on the same plate. We have talked to every state using the beads-on-paint system and there have been no problems. Our sister states of Colorado, Missouri and Iowa report no problem with beads-on-paint system and that they have saved millions of dollars by switching to this system after using the fully reflectorized system sheets for a number of years. The interim study clearly