

before, some of these commissioners have said that local control is working fine. But here are some of the things that they know better than the Liquor Control Commission. They know the law enforcement people better. They know how many members they have on their police force to enforce the liquor laws. They know the applicant better or if this applicant makes a renewal, they know them better. And I believe that we should keep this at the local level. I passed out a letter from the City of Norfolk, they conducted a poll. They had the research associates of Lincoln conduct a poll for the City of Norfolk. And so I just thought I would pass it out and here's what Mike Nolan, City Administrator of Norfolk, says in a letter addressed to me. "We understand that LB 781, the bill which would reinstate local control on issuance of liquor licenses, may be special ordered soon and wish to express strong support for the special ordering of this bill." But in this poll it says 68 percent, 68 percent of our citizens believe that towns and cities rather than the state should decide who gets the liquor licenses. And this is what this bill, as amended, would do. And so I would encourage your support for this bill this morning.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, followed by Senator Smith. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to support LB 781. I feel that there are enough assurances that after examining the Nebraska State Supreme Court decision which struck down LR 911 of a couple of years ago and this bill adequately deals with the concerns shown by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Most importantly, it still allows for state control over the issuance of liquor licenses. The commission, as noted on page 9 of the bill, the commission shall consider the local governing body but, in addition, shall examine that particular liquor license application according to criteria spelled out in pages 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the legislative bill. So it provides for local input in the determination of liquor licenses but the ultimate authority is still with the Nebraska State Liquor Commission and, as such, I believe is constitutional. I think it's important to have that local input. The local city council plays an important role in determining, but, as we discovered, the ultimate authority on the issuance of liquor licenses is still with the State of Nebraska. The State Liquor Commission is still the ultimate authority and I believe that this bill deals with the constitutional issues in a manner that will pass constitutional muster before the Nebraska State