

formulates policies which govern the invest office methods, practices, and procedures. What this bill would do would be allow the State Treasurer to interact with the Investment Council, but with no formal input mechanism. It would, you know, allow the State Treasurer to ask questions at Investment Council meetings, and have direct communication. As it is now, it's all very indirect and the State Treasurer, Dawn Rockey, has asked that we do this to give her a better way of communicating. I don't believe the Investment Council has any problem with it, and so I would just urge the advancement. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Discussion?
Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members, I stand opposed to this bill. And I'll give you a couple of statistics. As some of you know, probably those, at least the members of the Government Committee, I'm trying to eliminate the State Treasurer's office. Not trying to eliminate the treasurer, I'm trying to eliminate the office. My bill was not advanced, and that's all right, we'll try again sometime and maybe do it better. But I'd like to tell you the State Treasurer in Nebraska, this is from statistics from the National Association of State Treasurers organization, having to do with the treasury activities and functions; whether or not the treasurer has jurisdiction over all funds, all except retirement funds, state agency funds, compensation funds, construction funds, employee retirement, federal revenue, gas tax funds, working capital, highway funds, and insurance funds. In Nebraska, the State Treasurer has no jurisdiction over any of that. In fact, because the Investment Council was set up, the State Treasurer's responsibilities have dwindled over the years, it still has the ability concerning the disbursements of the funds, most of which is done through the DAS, and also over the unclaimed property. For that reason, and for a lot of other reasons, that's the reason I brought my bill to try to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot to eliminate the State Treasurer as an office. In state government and in campaigns, we all like to talk about running the state as we would a business, make it efficient. We don't do that. When we have the opportunity, we don't do that. Bringing this bill simply puts, as Senator Schimek so explained, puts the State Treasurer on the Investment Council, ex officio, it gives her absolutely, or him if it happens to be a he, no authority of any kind. All she can do is go to the meetings and listen and perhaps ask questions and so