

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. I now have Senator Hefner. We do have amendments to the bill. Let's go to the amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator...the first amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Chizek. Senator Chizek's amendment is on page 1304 of the Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. President and colleagues, I talked to some people this morning, after the article that appeared in the World-Herald and where I attempted to mediate and negotiate a compromise to an emotional issue. And I think it almost bordered on shooting the messenger. However, this issue, as you know, has been before the Judiciary Committee for three years. I probably own as many handguns as anybody on this floor. I would imagine more. I have listened to both sides in this argument and I have concluded beyond a reasonable doubt that we need to do something. Allowing felons to walk into a gun store, hand over cash and walk out in minutes is wrong and it's ridiculous. We have seen several examples where background checks would make a difference between life and death. My amendment to LB 355 is something I have been tossing around for a couple of months. It's similar to Iowa's gun control law and I think it could work well in Nebraska. I decided on this amendment because I was looking to satisfy Nebraska citizens and their desire to control the purchase of handguns by people who shouldn't have them, irresponsible felons. I realize there are other proposals out here but I also realize that our state patrol does not have the capability to run an instant computer check. And I realize our budget cannot absorb a 150 plus thousand dollar price tag to implement the system. And I realize that gun purchasers do not want to and should not have to pay the fee to finance the check. Simply, my amendment would require any person who wants to purchase or receive a handgun to first obtain an annual certificate which authorizes the individual to acquire any number of handguns during a one-year period. The amendment is designed to retain the background check and the cooling off effect, if you would. What it removes, colleagues, are the obstacles of red tape, inconvenience and registration. Yes, registration, that terrible word that one-third of the state deals with in the City of Omaha. Here's how the system would work. Any person who