

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. LB 801 is a bill that is designed to be fair to everyone in Nebraska, and not just certain people. Currently, Nebraska does not have any law concerning the purchase of handguns. LB 801 is modeled after a law in Virginia, it's working in Virginia, working very, very well in Virginia. They do about 73,000 handgun transfers a year. In Nebraska it's estimated that we're going to do about 20 to maybe 22 thousand handgun transfers a year. So we're about one-third of what they are in Virginia, and it's working very well there. So, Senator Ashford, to say that it's not working, doesn't have his facts straight. LB 801 is limited strictly to Nebraska residents. It provides a criminal history check, it would be completed prior to the transfer of a handgun. The State Patrol would establish a toll free number which the dealers would call for an instant criminal record check prior to the transfer of a handgun. If the record check indicates that the transfer of the handgun would be in violation of state or federal law, the transfer of the handgun would not be approved. LB 801 would take effect January 1, 1993. If you look at Senator Ashford's bill, or LB 801, they both are going to require a fee. They both will need a fee. He can't say that you can't have a fee one, and not the other. Omaha currently has LB...has a handgun registration. They have a \$5 fee. If you don't put a fee on it, you're putting it back onto the local property owners. So you need to have a fee with either one of them. I have an amendment coming up that will put a \$5 fee on it. And I think if we have 22,000 in Nebraska, that will raise \$110,000 fiscal note, the fiscal notes that...it says \$110,000 a year. That will raise it. So when you look at what LB 801 will do, and what the current amendment that we have before us now and the Senator Chizek amendment, I don't think there is any way we can go, except to go with LB 801, even though handgun control probably tells Senator Ashford what he has to say, NRA does not tell me what I have to say. But I think if you look at both bills, both bills, whether you look at the other one, or you look at this one, you need to go with the one that will be the least restrictive onto the honest citizen, and that is LB 801. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Next we have Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. President and colleagues, I rise to oppose the Ashford amendment. Obviously, I have some interest in the bill as was amended the other day. Lest we forget, remember