

April 7, 1992

LB 355, 1092

SENATOR ASHFORD: Madam President and members, I will...I will address this point again, though certainly...thank you, Madam...I'm going to withdraw my objection at this point and move to suspend the rules, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford has withdrawn his motion to overrule the Chair and has made a motion to suspend the germaneness rule. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Madam President, I appreciate the Chair's patience on that procedural change. This issue has been with us since 1988 and Senator Schellpeper and I have worked for at least two years to try to carve out a package that would make Nebraska a state that is concerned with responsible gun ownership. In LB 355, we made it...we forged an agreement, the National Rifle Association and handgun control advocates, formed an alliance that came...that resulted in LB 355, and over, I think, 38 or 39 senators in this body voted for responsible gun ownership in this state. One of the missing ingredients...the two missing ingredients to that...that bill, one was that the computer...computers would, at the State Patrol, would have the ability to do instant checks so that when handguns were purchased, a prospective handgun purchaser could either have a permit to purchase handguns, on one hand, or go through an instant check system to allow him or her to purchase that handgun at the point of purchase without having to go through a wait. The other piece in the puzzle of responsible gun ownership in our state that was missing was gun education. And in our state we have...are one of a few states in the last couple of years that have dealt with the gun control issue in a responsible way and also this bill...or this amendment is an effort to put us in line with those states that have also adopted gun education programs similar to Connecticut and other states. I don't think there has to be a long debate on this but I would suggest that we suspend the rules and retain the spirit of the agreements that Senator Schellpeper and I have made on this area so that we have this by...by the end of this biennium we'll have a total package of responsible gun ownership legislation so that the body can go on certainly next year having looked back and said, yes, we've dealt with the three pieces of the puzzle, computer checks, permits to purchase and gun education, to really put us in the forefront in this area in the state...or in the country. And, again, I think that these belong together. They were designed to be together and, hopefully, we can just, without a lot of debate, suspend the