

the exact page here in front of me, but it deals with an experimental operation. In other words, the Racing Commission, the industry, and everyone involved in the passage of LB 718 understood this to be an opportunity to experiment with off-track betting through electronic devices that are tied into the racetrack, that are tied down by geographic area, that are tied down and regulated by the Racing Commission itself. To argue that the commission does not have the ability to regulate an electronic facility at the same time on-site racetracks do nothing more than use electronic facilities to regulate themselves. I mean that's how they function. All the tickets, all the wagers are made through electronic terminals. That's how it is done presently. It will be done in that same form and fashion through 718 on an experimental basis across the state. This is not a full-blown, off-track betting operation. It says any licensed racetrack desiring to own and operate a teleracing facility shall submit a feasibility study and plan of operation to the State Racing Commission along with the application therefor. And it goes on to say what has to be included in that feasibility study and in that plan. This is not something that opens up the day LB 718 becomes law, but the Racing Commission is there from the very beginning. From the genesis of this proposal, they are involved, they have regulation, they have oversight. No one more than the industry itself and those who regulate it would want to make sure that this is a success. I would urge you to move to support the override of the veto. The reasons behind it I don't think are justified. I think the bill clearly, as Senator Will pointed out, is crafted in a way to allow for virtually fool-proof operation of this off-track betting operation or the electronic wagering ability that is built into 718 through this bill. I would urge you very strongly to move to override the Governor's veto.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. More as an explanation of vote than as an argument, I will state the following reasons why I cannot support the override. I was one of I guess two Omaha senators who didn't vote for the bill initially. Senator Hall has made a good point and that is that there are in the bill sufficient safeguards or there are a number of safeguards to ensure that there is oversight of this process. And that point I would not debate with him. And I don't think that, and apparently that was the reason as Senator Hall suggests that the Governor gave for vetoing this bill.