

developed by members of the Nebraska Museums Association from a model legislation format. Several other states have laws addressing unclaimed museum property, but Nebraska does not. LB 1276 has the support of the Nebraska Museums Association, Nebraska Historical Society, and Nebraska Library Commission. LB 1276 will aid in diffusing the potential for very serious liability problems on the part of museums in this state. It should not be a surprise to anyone in this Legislature that some of our museums in Nebraska are in faltering financial condition. It may be necessary, in the years ahead, for museums to close their doors and dispose of or return items in their possession. There must be a process in place to direct museums. After my staff informed the State Treasurer's Office about this legislation, they did raise a constitutional concern about the bill. Specifically, the treasurer's unclaimed property division wondered if LB 1276 established an exemption for a special class of individuals from the Unclaimed Property Act; and, therefore, is this provision of LB 1276 unconstitutional? I asked for an Attorney General's Opinion to clarify this question and the response was, there is no constitutional problem. I didn't go through the expense of passing out that constitutional opinion by the Attorney General. It was in the Journal. If anybody would like to look at it, I have it here for you to do so. I've also been in contact with the Nebraska Bankers Association about one portion of the bill they might want to see changed. At this time, the bankers have not determined whether they will request a change in the bill. But should they do so, I will attempt to accommodate them on Select File. The adoption of LB 1276 will fill a void in statute which is a legitimate concern on the part of those Nebraskans who work diligently to preserve our state's history. I urge the members for the advancement of LB 1276, the Museum Property Act, to E & R Initial. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Senator Maurstad, if you'd yield to a quick question.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yes, sir.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator.

SENATOR HILGERT: Reading over your legislation, I looked at the