

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR CUDABACK: Yes, I do realize and appreciate the concerns, and I should go ahead and state some more things for the record and so they are in the record, if we ever...for future use. LB 113 would amend...requires that the State Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, they determine the type of card or cards to be utilized. So it's the State Treasurer and DAS, in answer to Senator Pedersen's question, they will get together, come to the conclusion, and negotiate. And in answer to Senator Wehrbein's question, yes, it is not mandatory that the counties do this. It is not mandatory. It is up to them if they want to negotiate or go along with the system that is negotiated by DAS or the Treasurer. So it's not mandating. That was one of the concerns of the county officials that we were going to mandate this. It does not do this. And, currently, there are agencies that are using credit cards for buying, purchasing, and this is not the intent of this bill to change their current habits or the way they are conducting their business. It's not the intent to do away with their ability to do such. Under regulation, statutes, they determine that they can do it and this in no way interferes with that. This legislation would require vendors, and this is very important, it requires vendors accepting either the state's or the political subdivision's card or cards must, listen, they must obtain authorization for all transactions. Furthermore, each approval shall be in accordance with instructions provided by the state of Nebraska or political subdivisions for each state official, state agencies, or political subdivisions using the purchasing card or cards. This will maintain a tight rein on what the card is used for and so on. Currently, currently there are hundreds of people in the state of Nebraska that can go down to, I hate to use names here, but yeah, I'll use...I'll say Coast to Coast, for instance, many people go down there and purchase, right this very minute, there is somebody from the state of Nebraska buying some item, whether it be a can of paint, whether it be...who knows what. They are charging an item to the state of Nebraska. They are charging and that comes...that invoice comes back then and the State Treasurer has to make out hundreds and hundreds of checks. This way that person will charge that and they will get back one check...for everybody that purchased from Coast to Coast, they'll get back one...write one check. You know how that works, I don't because