

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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background on LB 298. In 1993, Senator LaVon Crosby introduced a interim study resolution on boards and commissions and asked that there be a review of those boards, commissions and other entities. From that resolution, the Government Committee, in 1994, prepared a report, and I have just one copy of this report that's still in my hands, and this is it. It was a rather thick and lengthy report and it was very well used and, in fact, I think we even reprinted it one or two times. It seemed to be a worthwhile task so this summer I decided that we would try to update the survey. It's been four years since it had been updated, and so my staff, with the help of Judy Carver, who was in the Government Committee office at that time, began taking the survey again and began compiling that report. I was hopeful that we would have that by the time the bill got up here on the floor today. We have it all on computer. It just needs proofing. We hope to have it in your hands pretty soon. During the course of compiling this program...or Legislative Research also compiled some information on boards and commissions at the request of Senator Beutler and I think the Natural Resources Committee, there...questions arose and some of those questions, frankly, came from the news media. And I started thinking about what do we do with all this information once we get it, and it seemed to me that we needed some kind of an evaluation process of this information. So I had my staff look at what some other states are doing and it wasn't an exhaustive look, but we did find out that a number of states actually set up boards and commissions to do this review process. Some of them have a very extensive analysis of boards and commissions and it's set up more like a program evaluation that we do here in Nebraska, only they give the same exhaustive look at all boards and commissions. I decided we didn't want anything that elaborate; that we just needed some kind of a check and review process, so decided that the Government Committee might be the right place to put this since the Government Committee was already doing a survey. What the bill provides is that the survey would be done every two years. The committee could choose to look more closely at any number of boards, commissions, or similar entities once the report is completed. It would work in coordination with program evaluation. It could also work in coordination with the Governor's Office, since he or she is the one responsible for making all these appointments, and any of you who've ever watched the Governor's Office in action know