

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 4, 1999 LB 298

298 is passed, nothing will change. The only thing that will happen is that we will have added more language to the statute books. Now, Senator Schimek will share with you her reasons for wishing to have that remain, and that's fine. The future of Nebraska won't change whether 298 is passed. The future of the Legislature won't change if Section 3 is taken out. The opportunities available to the body that the...that address the concerns enumerated in 298 really won't change very dramatically, although I may talk at...in...a little bit about Section 2, which would be the remaining section if Section 3 is adopted, but we'll wait perhaps to respond to that. But I understand, I've went through all of these things and I understand the reasons for the concerns of Government Committee. We simply have, I believe, the need to go out and look on a fairly regular basis at the boards and commissions that we have established. We have that opportunity today. In my mind, there's a problem in designating a Standing Committee of the Legislature which we can change by rule any year to a different name. And I would stand corrected on this statement if correction is needed, but I believe that the only committee that's provided in statute today is the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, was...which was a committee created in the early days of the Unicameral Legislature, and that all of the rest of the committees and their subject matter jurisdiction is a moving target, depending on the needs of the time, established in our own rules and not in the statutes of the state of Nebraska. Any committee today, through the interim hearing process, can do any of these things and, from time to time, do do them. Our Legislature Research Committee (sic), in your files you ought to have a recent compilation from a question I asked, give us a list of boards and commissions so we can stay up. That's their responsibility to do that. We could easily ask, without any law, without any change in rules, for our Legislative Research Division to do...to provide the report that we are wanting to provide by statute and wanting to demand that Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee does that without regard to the other committees of the Legislature and the subject matter jurisdictions they may have on some boards and commissions and the familiarity that they may have with them. Again, I stand to tell you that I object to nothing philosophically that is in LB 298. I do ask you, though, to consider whether it is a trip worth taking when all of the