

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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program of library service through affiliated local public libraries. The board would be established with appointees representing local interests, and would be responsible for long-term planning. The bill (sic) would be allowed to hire a director. The board has no taxing authority. And I think it's permissive that they have no taxing authority. The money for this affiliation would have to come from a vote of the city council and county board or governing board. Each library within a county or counties in the federation have the option of joining, they don't have to, it's open to them. Members of the federation may participate in a joint program that includes free library service to all patrons of the participating library. The bill allows members to opt out of the federation with proper notice. The great majority of Nebraska's 260 public libraries are municipal libraries, with 116 of these service populations of under 1,000. There are few county libraries. About 20 percent of the Nebraska population live in areas which do not provide local tax support for public library service. Nebraska libraries have a long history of cooperation. In recent years efforts have been increased to promote collaboration among the public libraries to share resources, joint delivery service, and to extend service to surrounding rural areas. LB 362 offers another option for local governments to organize for better library service. LB 362 provides a clear policy statement consistent with recent state legislation to encourage collaboration and efficiency. And that's really what this bill is to do. LB 362 provides a clear and simple mechanism for independent local governments to join together for joint offering of public service. It's simply permissive legislation, and I think that has been some of our goals in the Revenue Committee over the years is to provide...allow some options so people can cooperate and provide better service to the people of the state. So, with that, I'd ask.... That is kind of a simple explanation of the bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We next move.... Mr. Clerk, an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Senator Hartnett would move to amend the bill. (See FA15 on page 485 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hartnett, you're recognized to open