

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

February 22, 1999 LB 54

statement that no one...that it was fairly...here we go, that there was no one who testified in opposition to this bill. It was unanimous coming out of the Judiciary Committee, and in the best deliberations and forethought of those on the Judiciary Committee, we advanced this to the body, saying that this should be passed. Notwithstanding the considerations of Senator Wehrbein in his performance of his duties as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, I would suggest at least this body advance LB 54 with the committee amendments for the time being, to get this bill on Select File, until we can perhaps more accurately reflect the actual fiscal impact regarding LB 54. If that is an issue for my colleagues to support or not support this bill, let us do that with the information very clearly defined, and let's do that on Select File. There is time in this session. We're not down to crunch time yet. We can take thoughtful steps. The concept is universally supported. Please advance this bill with the committee amendments, it's very important. One more point, some people might be wondering whether this is some sort of...goes back to the old debate as far as English as a second language, and should people....I will tell you this, it's an interesting anecdote you may want to share with your constituents who are concerned about providing services in different languages in the state of Nebraska regarding the drivers' license manuals that we had printed in Spanish some time ago. The number of reprints are decreasing markedly. The demand for Spanish drivers' license manuals has been decreasing. The efforts of our school systems regarding teaching English and ESL courses are having a substantive impact, and people are becoming more literate in English. So, if that's a concern of yours, it shouldn't be, frankly, directed at this bill. This bill is needed for the administration of justice. Our efforts are working in the state of Nebraska. And, if there's a fiscal discussion that needs to take place, let's do it with real numbers, and let's do that on Select File. Again, there are representatives of the Mexican-American Commission who are in the lobby, should you have any further questions. I simply would encourage my colleagues to adopt the committee amendments and advance LB 54 to Select. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Excuse me. Before we proceed, Senator Stuhr announces the following guests are visiting the Legislature. They are students in the north