

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

February 25, 1999 LB 27

come to this agreement, so it is not being superimposed by the state on any employer. It just allows it as a bargaining item, and I don't know how anybody can vote against that, frankly. I do think that Senator Hilgert's point about some of the misinformation on this bill, people are looking at, when they writing these letters, they're looking at bills that have been introduced in the past, for some of their arguments at least, and other of the arguments are based on a gut reaction on the whole issue of right to work. So be sure that you look carefully. This isn't a very long bill. Be sure that you look carefully at it and I think that you will see that it isn't harmful, that it is fair to everybody, and that it does allow employees and employers to establish a policy towards this end. And with that, Senator Lynch or Senator Hilgert, would you like some of my time? Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Who did you select, Senator? Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Hilgert.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hilgert, you're recognized.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Crosby, I had a few questions. I believe there's close to 50,000 union members in the state and 23,000 members of the NSEA, and, well, almost 50,000 AFL-CIO members, I should say, and 23,000 NSEA. So we're about approximately 70,000 members in the state of Nebraska. How many people will be affected by this is hard to say because we have, in Nebraska, organized shops that go from 100 percent membership down to 50 percent plus 1. So there's never been a survey, to my knowledge, so that information simply we don't have because there is a variance there. Senator Redfield brought up some good points and Senator Redfield certainly has grasped the concept of what we're trying to do here on the Business and Labor Committee and I commend her for her interest, except I would suggest one thing. If, you know, we understand how unions have to, by law, represent nonunion workers in the workplace when they have a grievance and so forth. When a union has...when a union negotiates a contract, the nonunion members benefit as well, even though they're not paying for the costs of negotiations. This is what this bill tries to rectify. I believe, and certainly Senator