

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

March 18, 1999 LB 574

amendments to LB 574.

SENATOR COORDSEN: You've heard the motion to adopt the E & R amendments to LB 574. Those in favor please say aye. Opposed nay. They are adopted. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Senator Jensen would move to amend. (See FA55 found on page 1049 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Jensen, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. If you'll recall, LB 574 is a bill that requires tobacco companies that are not part of the Master Settlement Agreement to pay certain amounts of money into an escrow account based on the number of units that they sell in Nebraska. The bill follows, almost exactly, the wording and punctuation of Appendix T of the MSA, that's the Master Settlement Agreement, which is absolutely necessary if the state is going to have a conforming statute underneath...under the MSA. Passage of a model bill is necessary to protect Nebraska's tobacco settlement award from being drastically reduced. Senator Chambers, when this last came up, expressed some concern on General File about the drafting of the model act. The state is able to delete Section 1, which is really the legislative findings of the bill and still considered to be a model act under the MSA, and that is what simply all this amendment does is strike Section 1, the finding section from the bill. Senator Chambers would like to propose some additional changes on Section 2 and 3 of the bill and I have pledged to work with Senator Chambers between now and Final Reading to have those proposed changes reviewed by the legal counsel in New York. He happens to be out of the office this week, and as soon as he returns, why we will ask if the changes that he has proposed are acceptable. Frankly, in my own personal opinion, I believe that Senator Chambers' language is better than what's under the model act, but we do have to be careful in that particular regard. Be glad to work with Senator Chambers until the bill comes back for...or comes up from Final Reading to see if we can adopt these changes. I do urge the adoption, however, of this amendment which strikes Section 1, and want to thank Senator Chambers for his assistance and cooperation in this matter. That will conclude the opening,