

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

March 29, 1999 LB 476

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Janssen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. One of the things that I found out when I was going door to door in neighborhoods in the last election was that if you are convicted in a...of a felony in Nebraska and serve your time that you cannot vote after you have been released from prison. You cannot vote until you have received a pardon from the State Pardons Board, and so that means that we are not...to me, that means we're not trying to put people back out into the community and expecting them to be full members of the community. But yet, as I read this bill, and I'm going to ask Senator Janssen maybe a question here in a minute, but as I read this bill it says that the Nebraska State Patrol shall issue a license to carried a concealed handgun to an applicant if he or she has not been convicted of an offense involving violence against the person of another or an offense involving the threat or attempt of violence against the person of another unless at least three years have elapsed since a sentence set by the court has been fulfilled, or at least three years have elapsed since the record has been sealed or expunged. Now I ask you, is that a very consistent policy that we are incorporating here? We tell people who have been convicted and served their time that they...their voting rights are not restored until they've received a pardon, and that's a lengthy process, I understand, to have to go through, but, yet, we are going to allow people who have had convictions and three years have elapsed, they can get a weapon and be back out on the street with those guns, and that is very troublesome to me. And, Senator Janssen, I know that you're involved in a conversation right now, but I'd like to ask you just a question about the time limitation here. And I don't think you probably heard what I was asking about, but, basically, the bill, as as written, says that if you have been convicted of an offense involving violence that if you have gone three years since a sentence by the court has been fulfilled, in other words three years since you're out of prison or whatever, then you can get a permit to carry a gun. Is that correct?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Yes, you can apply for one after that...