

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 19, 1999 LB 637

proposed. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Brown, on the bracket motion.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise, naturally, to oppose the bracket motion. Part of the...part of LB 637 is responding to the request of the federal government that we live up to our side of the contract and what do they propose to do if we don't honor our side of the contract is they will no longer fund the 66 percent of the cost of our child support collection process that they have been funding, and that is \$15 million. Now, they have been funding this child support collection system since 1975, but I...a lot of things have changed and those numbers are probably not...it's hard to make those numbers comparable to right now, so I'm going back to 1991, when wage withholding first was instituted. And when Senator Chambers talks about experimentation, I would like to let you know what experimentation has resulted in. In 1991, we collected \$30 million for children through the child support collection process, and now we collect over \$120 million for children through the child support process, so our experimentation has been working. Now a little bit of information about what LB 637 will do to the \$15 million that the federal government has been funding for child support in the state of Nebraska. That money, currently, about half of it stays at the state level for the state level system that we have, and about half of it goes out to the counties. About half of that amount goes...of the remaining half goes to the counties for the clerks of the court for the collection and disbursement of child support. The other half goes to the county attorneys for the enforcement of child support. Under LB 637 the amount that goes to the clerks will be significantly reduced. It will go from about \$4.5 million to about \$1.1 million. That reflects a difference in the amount of work that the clerks will be doing, although they will still be involved in updating the system as to changes in court orders and things like that, so they will still have a role. The money that goes to the...to the county attorneys for enforcement will remain unchanged. If we jeopardize the \$15 million that come...comes from the federal government to help us with our child support, then we will have to make the choice of whether we are going to come up with state