

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 21, 1999 LB 76

CLERK: 32 ayes, 10 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Bromm's amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is agreed to.

CLERK: I have nothing further pending to the committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Brashear, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, thank you. Members of the body, thank you for all of your time and attention and concern with the committee amendments. I would take this opportunity to remind you that the committee amendments become the bill. The committee amendments are not, I repeat not the repeal of the death penalty. The committee amendments are not what Senator Chambers brought to your Judiciary Committee. The committee amendment is now, with Senator Bromm's contribution and your support, a two-year moratorium, a thorough study of how we have been effecting the death penalty in the state of Nebraska in order that we can do justice. I will return to our statutes, and I will tell you that, until we decide otherwise as a body, we have said that life is the most valuable possession of a human being, and before taking it the state should apply and follow the most scrupulous standards of fairness and uniformity. And I will tell you that, until we decide otherwise, it is the law of the state of Nebraska that our laws should be applied uniformly throughout the state. And that in order to insure that the law be uniformly applied we must study how it is applied. But the study hasn't been done until we adopt the committee amendment and make LB 76 the vehicle for the study that the Supreme Court has been pointing us toward in order that we can do justice, in order that we can do our duty. I'm not going to be politically correct or try to be today, I won't paraphrase, I'll quote. I'll hope that I don't have a brain seizure that makes me quote the wrong person. It's Mica, "He has showed you, oh man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." I urge the adoption of the committee