

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

May 13, 1999

LB 637

name on it. But if we go back to our discussion, as this bill was originally introduced on General File, and with the amendment that I offered, that at that time a number of us were saying let's say that we're going to at least say we're going to apply for a waiver, knowing that between General File and Select File we were going to have a great deal of discussion about whether that is the most practical thing to do, or I think what we've come to an agreement is that if Nebraska has to cry uncle, at least we're going to have it be something that we believe reflects our state and what's best for the state of Nebraska. In its original form, a number of us had questions of Senator Brown, who had done a great deal of work. And I realize, many of us realize you've done a lot of work. You bring a bill to the floor of the Legislature, and people start asking questions, and offering amendments that change your original intention, and that can be frustrating. But the reason we do that, the reason we do that is because we have concerns that this works best for our state. We believe we have a good system now. We realize we're going to have to change. I never said that I thought we wouldn't have to come to a centralized child support system. My issue and where I got involved with this was when Senator Brown was pointing out the number of people who would be involved with the customer service calls. And as we got into that and looked at the study that was done and what the recommendation was from that study, I became very concerned as to the number of people. And, as you remember, I pointed out that Iowa had 44, we were going to have 14, Iowa has about...Iowa is about twice the size of Nebraska. When I did the math on what they said was the average contact, average number of contact calls, this would...it would mean that 14 individuals would have to respond to about 1,000 calls a month, each one. And I began to question, how is that going to work? How is that going to give the kind of customer service that we think Nebraska citizens are used to and that they should be able to expect? Because of that, you will see in the Kristensen amendment a line, that is very important to me, that's part of the new study. And it says, it will have to...the study shall determine a method which complies with federal law most effectively and efficiently while retaining the high enforcement rates and superior customer service which characterize the present Nebraska support collection and disbursement system. I think that that will bring us to a different conclusion than the one that the