

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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May 13, 1999

LB 76

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 76.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Question is the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 76. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. The amendments are agreed to.

CLERK: Senator Bruning, Senator, would you like to take up your bracket motion, or withdraw your other amendments first? It's your decision.

SENATOR BRUNING: Withdraw all amendments, and take up only the bracket motion. Thank you.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bruning would move to bracket LB 76 until April 10 of 2000.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bruning, you're recognized to open on your motion to bracket LB 76.

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we are back to the...Senator Chambers' bill to study the death penalty in the state of Nebraska and provide for a two-year moratorium on executions during that study. The bracket motion I have put up will effectively kill the bill, it brackets the bill until April 10, 2000, which should be the end of the biennium, so the bill will have no chance. So I want the record to be clear what you're voting on here is to kill the bill. But rather than just simply have a discussion on the bill itself, I wanted to give us a slightly extended opportunity to debate the bill, although I have no intention of dragging this on and on. The reason I'm putting this bracket motion up is my belief is this particular bill moves us down the path of abolishing the death penalty. And there are a number of senators in this room who have said, I believe in the death penalty, I support the death penalty, but I also support the moratorium. Well, I submit to you today that that's an inconsistent position, that if you support the moratorium, you are taking the first step, Senator Chambers has been very clear this is the first step in his attempt to abolish the death penalty. The two-year moratorium will essentially have no effect as far as keeping the