

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

May 14, 1999

LB 865

Senator Brashear waives off. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature. A couple things that I need to make clear to you. I've had a couple questions asked. LB 865, in its introduction form, had 33 of you people that signed onto it. For that, I want to thank you. It had to do with moving the juvenile...the community justice program from Corrections under Probation, and you've all heard plenty about that. Senator Brashear had a bill that...on community justice that left it under Corrections and then we'd have two, and that's why we decided and agreed, not being able to bring that out of committee with the two bills against one another, doing the opposite, that we would agree on an interim study. And that issue was very, very important to me and remains to be important to me, and that's why I prioritized in the beginning and...but we have agreed to do that, and I hope that is with your blessing, that after having 33 of you sign onto it. I want you to know what this bill is not. It is not my continued disagreement with some of the things that goes on in the correctional system. It is not that. Corrections supports this bill. They have people on this committee. They have a person, Bill Schnackenberg from the Correctional Treatment Center out at Air Park who serves on this committee, and I want you to know that Correctional Treatment Center that we have in the state of Nebraska is second to none, and I've toured them in many, many states since I've been in the Legislature. It is one of the best treatment centers for substance abuse that I have ever seen. The problem of it is, it only serves 90 people and we have over 3,600 people in our prison with 80 percent of them needing drug and alcohol programs. We have people from the community justice program who serve on this committee as it is now. We have people from Parole. So Corrections is on this and Corrections does support this bill, very much so. It is something we need, is of cohesiveness of bringing all of them together and giving one program that is going to serve all without going through so many of the same hoops. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bromm, on the Brashear amendment to the committee amendments to LB 865.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I do