

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

May 19, 1999

LB 661

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President, members. When I was stopped before because of time, I was in the middle of a letter from a banker; and with your permission, I would go back to that. The banker had said that their particular institution had been working on this readiness system. They had invested very heavily and they had been testing. They think that, and I'm quoting now, the protections afforded organizations by LB 661 are reasonable and important. This legislation creates a window of time during which organizations can focus energy and resources on remedying any system failures which might occur without having to devote critical management time to possible liability threats. And continuing to quote, I can see no social purpose served by lawsuits filed against organizations that are using their best efforts to make their computer systems year 2000 ready. These lawsuits only threaten otherwise viable business enterprises and consume important resources which should be directed at fixing any outstanding problems rather than fighting litigation. I feel LB 661 is very important legislation which deserves your support. Sincerely yours, and then it was signed. The financial institutions and hopefully the state are well prepared for the year 2000. But they can't control the businesses that they deal with. The moratorium that Senator Kristensen talked about or the six-month delay on class actions allows time for the financial institutions anyway to fix the problem. And it is in the public interest to encourage this mediation rather than the litigation. And if the political subdivisions are sued in a class action suit, then it is the taxpayers who ultimately pay for this. I was...I declared this as my priority quite late and it came out of the committee fairly late and so obviously we're dealing with it fairly late. After I declared it as my priority, there was a reporter that called me and was asking me questions about this bill. And she said, well, you declared this so late and it's still in committee, what are you going to do? And like a dummy, I said, well, if it doesn't pass this year, we'll discuss it next year. I guess what I handed out is kind of the way my blonde hair is not for nothing. But this is an important bill and obviously it does need to be addressed this year. But if you will look at the committee amendments and then again at the later amendment, those make further changes; and I would appreciate your support of this bill. Thank you.