

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

May 20, 1999

LB 594

sure the body really studied before they voted on the amendment to do this, studied the issue as much as it should have been studied. I think most people think that our taxi cab drivers, our cab drivers and so on are well paid. I think they're almost as poorly paid as state legislators. I think that's the case with most of them. I have a case here a five-month period where one of these drivers they grossed, I mean gross, not net, about \$6,000. They had to pay their expenses out of this. I just don't think it's as lucrative as perhaps we think it is. Like Senator Wehrbein said, what happens when they're gone? Where are we? Where are we? I don't know. I'm just asking. I'm not sure there's too many on this floor could answer that question. Insurance is a big factor. These people that draw 30 cents a mile, I'm afraid most insurance companies, if I had to insure them, I would drop them. I would drop them like a hot potato. I wouldn't carry them. They're going to be doing their contracting. They're in the business. Why would you...how could you buy insurance to have your car insured for private when you're hauling passengers? Insurance companies aren't that stupid. Their statistics tell them what's going on here. They're going to drop their insurance, absolutely. I wouldn't insure them and neither would you. I just think we need to know what we're getting into. I think it's a hot potato like I said and I think we're going to do away with some of our major carriers. I know I have a carrier in my district, a major carrier. He says he can't make it. The Public Service Commission I think, and this is my interpretation, I may be right or wrong, I was wrong once in my life, but I think the Public Service Commission now has to say whether you can lower cab fares. I think they have to. You just can't come out and lower cab fares for private. Now we're saying the state of Nebraska is going to put an amount, we're going to put an amount on here overriding what the Public Service Commission is already doing. I think it's poor public policy when the state of Nebraska, as legislators we dictate...we have good people in Health and Human Services. I trust them wholly. We have a good member going there and I know she'll do a good job. We have good people over there. I discussed it with some of them, not all of them. I think we should leave it up to those people to decide. Why do we want to micromanage? I know we're micromanaging here. I know you're not listening to me, but I would like to say that once again.