

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

February 3, 2000 LB 729

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Redfield would move to amend the bill. (FA285, Legislative Journal page 548.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Redfield, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the bill.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the body, I appreciate your indulgence to talk about this issue. On page 2 of Senator Schimek's amendment, if you look down at line 23, I have made a motion to strike the language in the subsection there (a), which says that in determining legal sufficiency, the language says that they would not allow you to interfere with the legislative prerogatives contained in the Constitution of Nebraska, that the necessary revenue of the state and its governmental subdivisions shall be raised by taxation in the manner as the Legislature may direct. The reason I'm bringing that amendment is because we know that there have been initiatives in the past where the people of Nebraska have decided that they do not agree with the way the Legislature has decided the manner of taxation, be it the farm economy, may look at their property tax burden, they may look at the percentage that they are valued at, they may look at the proportion of the property tax burden that supports our schools and other governmental entities, and they may choose to come with an initiative and say we would prefer that the people of Nebraska would have the opportunity to vote on the ballot and decide if they would like to shift the taxation burden to another method. If we include this language in the amendment, we would not allow that freedom to any segment of our population to challenge the taxation method already selected by the Legislature. Now I think that it's important, as Senator Dierks has stated, that we protect the right of the people to the initiative and the referendum. We are a one house Unicameral system. One of the safeguards of that system is the right of the people to the initiative and the referendum. I would like to protect that right. I believe that process is important. I think Senator Schimek has some things in her bill which could be beneficial. But I do think that this is a major element that our people have a right, right now, to petition the people on the ballot to agree with them in changing the manner of taxation set by the Legislature. By passing this bill we would be taking that right away from them, and I ask you to support the