

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

February 22, 2000 LB 510, 994

CLERK: ...thank you, Reference Report referring certain gubernatorial appointees to a Standing Committee for confirmation hearing. And a motion to reconsider the Final Reading vote on LB 510. That will be laid over. (Legislative Journal page 755.)

Madam President, the next bill this morning is LB 994. Its a bill introduced by Senator Dwite Pedersen. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January, in January, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no committee amendments, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Dwite Pedersen, you're recognized to open on LB 994.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. It is my pleasure to introduce to you today LB 994, a bill that I have sponsored this year at the request of the Governor. Since coming to the Legislature in 1993, however, I have worked on this type of a bill and find it very interesting that we have as much support as we have now for it. The law enforcement certification is looking for ways to help cities keep the law enforcement officers that they have paid to train. I've also heard from individuals who desire to be law enforcement officers and who had attended college and graduated with criminal justice degrees but who were unable to be hired because they were not certified as police officers. They could not get certified because they could not get into the Law Enforcement Training Center unless they had already been hired by a law enforcement agency. I have failed to understand why we, as taxpayers, should have to pay to train a person for a career in law enforcement. Persons who want to be attorneys, doctors, nurses, counselors, and many other professions have to pay for their own training and then go out to find a job. The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and the Police Standards Advisory Council, and the representatives of the state community colleges have come together to bring a bill that addresses these concerns and others that have come to light since this discussion first came up. The result is this bill, LB 994. Our current system requires the state of Nebraska to pay for the cost of entry level certification training for