

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR CUDABACK: He's coming, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: I apologize.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I apologize for interrupting the conversation that you were going to have and I'll let you go in a moment. In your bill, and I do confess not to having read it this morning, but is there any provision that allows local law enforcement people to continue the current practice, that is hiring someone and seeing that they complete the Law Enforcement Training Academy course while they're a member of the department?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: This bill does not change that, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: So that's...okay, thank you, Senator Pedersen. That was one of the concerns that the members of the law enforcement agencies that make up the various divisions in my district, both at the city level, village level, as well as the county sheriffs. Because there was a concern expressed to me earlier in the summer that if we continued down the road that LB 994 proposed for us to cover, then there could come a time in the future when the small population counties, the low budget law enforcement entities of villages and cities would not be able to comply with the mandates of law, that is the completion of a certified course of Law Enforcement Training Academy, simply because those people who were interested in doing the backgrounding as well as putting up the money to pay for the tuition and the cost would not be interested in working for the smaller communities across the state of Nebraska. I still have some concerns because, although as Senator Pedersen indicated, this bill does have that...that opportunity still contained within it, by setting a pattern for another way, that is a self-funded entry into law enforcement, we may be laying out a pattern for the elimination of those government-sponsored type students that go to the Law Enforcement Training Academy. There are a couple of issues involved in here for us that represent the lesser populated areas of the state. The first of those is, in fact, the situation as it currently existed where many people have found that with the hiring of a small city municipal law enforcement officer, then paying their salary and benefits while