

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

February 23, 2000 LB 994

process, the screening process, but it does free up space so that that group of people could have access to this facility, and that's the only point I want to make. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. To give a little more information on what Senator Thompson was talking about, at the present time you can come from a small community, let's say Bradford, Nebraska, you've been hired as a police officer by the local chief of police or city council, with absolutely no training, none whatsoever. You're hired, you're given a badge, a gun and some handcuffs and told to go to work. And the only thing that keeps you in the job for more than a year is to go through the training. But you can work up to let's say six months, eight months, I should know, I think it takes at least three to four months to get through the academy. But at the end of that year, if they haven't finished the academy and been certified, then they are laid off and they go out and hire somebody else who is not certified. So, if we're talking about getting people into the field who we can't trust or may not be able to handle the...cut the mustard to make it in this field, we have that going on now. This would give us an opportunity to have more police officers trained and certified, going through the screening process, and having top-notch police officers on the street. It...it has nothing to do with a...demeaning position of police officers, it would have nothing to do...I think it has nothing to do with the opposite, to make us a better, better departments, better law enforcement and having the best service. If there's any questions on that, I'd be glad to answer them. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate? Seeing none, Senator Pedersen, you're recognized to close on advancement of the bill.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature. Six years ago, a little bit more than that, I had the thought of what we needed to do to get more police officers on the street who are certified and able to serve us as good police officers. Senator Wickersham has offered two times, in the eight years that I've been here, a bill in the Judiciary Committee to get police officers, that we call constables.