

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

March 1, 2000

LR 289

talk a little bit about the process because not only does this bill have to go through the Legislature and go through all three rounds of debate, but then...oh, and incidentally I should mention, contrary to a piece of information that you received on e-mail this morning by a citizen of Nebraska, the Governor does not have anything to do with this. It's a constitutional amendment. The Governor doesn't have veto power. He doesn't...I mean that's...it's not in his jurisdiction. It is up to the legislators to make the decision whether or not to put it on the ballot and then, of course, it would be November before it could go on the ballot. I'm not, in my wildest dreams, thinking that we would have 40 votes in this body to put it on the general election...or the primary election ballot. Once that's done and the voters say yes, then the tribes, all four tribes in this case, would have to ask the Governor and the state of Nebraska to enter into negotiations with them. At this point then the negotiations would take place. Now, there is a trailer bill to this and it is still sitting in the committee, and we wouldn't necessarily have to pass a trailer bill this year, but one of the things that I think should be a point of discussion if we proceed with this is whether the Legislature should have a final say. The way the trailer bill is written it is...it mirrors the language in Kansas statutes and it would say that, indeed, after the compact was agreed to by the Governor and the tribes, then it would come to the Legislature for an up or down vote. It wouldn't be treated like a regular bill. It wouldn't go to committee for hearing. It wouldn't have three stages of debate, at least that's the way it's being envisioned right now. It would come to the Legislature for an up or down vote. There would be a ten-day period in which we could do that. If the Legislature was not in session then the Executive Board would make that decision. That was a big bone of contention in 1993 when that original statute, LB 231, was being discussed, and I'm open to discussion on it but I think it would be good if we had...had that ratification ability. Once the compact is agreed to by both parties, then it has to go to the Secretary of Interior for approval or redrafting, and it has to meet all federal regulations or it won't be approved. I might also mention that it has to be an interlocal agreement with communities in the area, so it is a long process. Even if it would pass this year, it could be another year or two after that before everything got accomplished. If we wait two more years