

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

March 14, 2000 LB 1328

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. This is a very, very simple bill. It eliminates the requirement that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission maintain a transmission interconnection facility in Omaha, which is currently at UNO. Don't get excited, listen. The proposed change would allow NETC to colocate the Lincoln Channel 12 and the Omaha Channel 26 transmission facilities when the conversation to digital television takes place. So it really means that they can eventually go to one tower to do both Omaha and Lincoln. At this time it is proposed the new transmission facility would be located in Sarpy County and would involve a public or private partnership. And LB 1328 is permissive, therefore has no fiscal impact in and of itself, should NETC choose to relocate the transmission facilities costs would increase. That's down the road a ways. Actually, at this time it was going to take place fairly soon, at this time it will not take place for quite a while into the future, until we do actually go to digital. But this is, until now, future efficiencies. They can locate one tower to serve both areas. At this point they're going to be broadcasting both locations for a while, actually a little longer than they thought they were going to have to. But eventually this will allow that when we go to digital, and if you recall, the other day, it was 2006 when I believe it will be completely switched to digital. So it's a little bit related to the other. You're all aware of that digital analogue issue, and this is so that future efficiencies can be obtained by going to one tower. But in the meantime you do not have to worry about television reception.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Kristensen, on the advancement of LB 1328.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Wehrbein, real quickly. I'm not going to talk about digital and what you may think I would. My concern and my question quickly is, did the...at the hearing, it's my understanding that there will be excess capacity to broadcast in a greater area of service, if they move. And what they're going