

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

March 21, 2000 LB 1217

appropriate, where we have the Governor appointing the task force and have a legislative division providing staff support, and perhaps even some constitutional question. In any event, I spoke with the Director of the Department of Insurance. It seems to me that if we're looking...if we're trying to look at the big picture here and think outside of necessarily the parameters of where we are on health insurance, that the Department of Insurance is perhaps the...perhaps the place that you provide that support anyway. They have access to information from other states, other programs, can respond to questions, I think, from this task force and the task force would be the actual body to develop the report but they could lean on the Department of Insurance for help or answers to questions. That is...that is it. We have not enumerated who the Governor should put on that task force, I purposely did not do that, but let me say that it would be my hope that it would be comprised of the most...the most knowledgeable, capable people with respect to government health insurance that he can...can arm twist to serve on this body, because I think it is...it's a big job. It's a tedious task. It can be political, but I think it is high time that we did it. I know I came back to the session pretty frustrated, learning that...that my staff, to some extent, took a decrease in pay because of the increased health insurance contribution that they had to make. They have families and so forth. I heard about the problems with the cost of school health insurance. University of Nebraska is in here for a deficit request. I don't really know where it's going and I don't know that this task force will provide all the answers, but I think it definitely demands a close examination by people who know what they're doing in that subject area. I should say in the hearing that we had in...in the Banking and Insurance Committee we had good strong support from League of Municipalities, the school boards, the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska, NACO, Community College Association, University of Nebraska, and...and NAPE were all in support, and so there really was no opposition and I hope the body would see fit to consider this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Discussion on the Bromm amendment, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the