

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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Interesting conversation, to some extent. Senator Beutler I think laid out what the bill does. And the bill is in much better shape than when it first came to the Legislature. As I've shared with you many times during the course of the two other discussions on this bill, my concern has been that there were not traps laid for the unwary. And I do not believe at this point in time that there are traps for the unwary. We were able to provide a better definition for "relative," which I think will make the process easier for elected officials across the state of Nebraska to understand where they are with respect to what they must report on their financial report, annual financial report. I don't recall any discussion, as a matter of fact, or any discussion of merit, on any...on the parts that apply to the lobby. And I doubt that any member of the Legislature had any contact with any member of the lobby, because I believe, based upon the lack of action, that they as a group had decided to adopt a hands-off attitude, for the same reason that many members of the Legislature have been reluctant to say anything on this issue, because to do otherwise would create the impression they fear, that there was in fact rot that needed to be rooted out. The bill is quite probably workable. I do plan on putting this issue on the legislative issues symposium, with a presentation, should he agree, by the executive director of Accountability and Disclosure. I know that when new people come in the body, there's an orientation session. But there are so many issues, I think, presented there that it's good to do a little refresher. It's not that complicated, but it had the potential, when LB 1021 came first to the floor, or when it was introduced, and then the committee amendment, had a number of flaws that I believe we have been able to fix. Whether it passes or not will not make any elected official honest or dishonest. Those are things that we cannot measure, we can only seek to reveal. And our current law does that. I do not believe it will be impacted by this law to any degree. I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Bruning, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bruning, two minutes.

SENATOR BRUNING: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Coordsen. I appreciate the discussion on this bill. I think it's necessary that we continue to talk about it. You know,