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February 6, 2003 LB 214

advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM0034, Legislative Journal page 324.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Quandahl, you're recognized to open on LB 214.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, LB 214 is a fairly simple bill that was brought to me by the Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy for the reason that technology is catching up not only with the state of Nebraska, but also with accountants. Very soon accountants will no longer be able to take their CPA exam by using just a regular paper and pencil. They're going to be forced to go or actually required to take the CPA examination by computer at third-party vendors that would administer the CPA exam. The Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy would still have to compile those results, certify the results, and issue the actual certificates, but the genesis for LB 214 is to allow audit accountants, our future accountants in Nebraska, to be able to take those exams by computer. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Quandahl. There are committee amendments. Banking Committee, Senator Quandahl, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments as Chairman of that committee.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Yes, the committee amendments basically are the meat of the bill. There are going to be two more paper-and-pencil examinations scheduled for this year, 2003, that being in May and in November, and it's clear that our Board of Public Accountancy was losing money on those exams. And so what the committee amendments do is allow some fee adjustments for those two exams, and then also make adjustment for fees when we convert to the electronic exam. The committee proposed raising the maximum fee for these two exams in May and November of this year to \$300, and that's down from the \$400 recommended by the board, and in 2004 the exams will be administered by this third party and be computerized so that, 2004, the maximum fee would drop back to \$200. Since it is a multipart exam, I believe there are five parts to the CPA exam, if you don't get all of them you have to go back and take a