

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

February 20, 2003 LB 282

the Legislature, there are two ideas in this amendment. I am rather lukewarm and indifferent to one. I don't happen to care for the other one. The two ideas are this: Let there be two legislators, not one. Now, we currently have the Tax Commissioner as one person. If we want to send two legislators, I guess that would dominate with a legislative voice the representation of the state. From my perspective, I don't think you need to do that and I think it's added expense and I don't see the need to do that, but I'm pretty much indifferent to that outcome. I think if it strikes the body as a good thing to do, I wouldn't carp. I'd suggest to you that it probably is unnecessary and an expense and a waste of money, but if...we've spent money for lots of things and this wouldn't be a bad purpose. The language that Senator Beutler I think focuses on is this language. Let me read the amendment to you: The Nebraska representatives...and that's, remember, one chosen by the Legislature, the Executive Committee, and our Tax Commissioner...the Nebraska representatives shall not vote for or against any amendment to the agreement without first receiving legislative approval of their action by legislative resolution if the Legislature is in session or from the Executive Board of the Legislature if the Legislature is not in session. You know, we are here as representatives of democracy. We don't do direct democracy in this state. We don't do it in this country. We do representative democracy where you pick a representative and you entrust them. It's exactly what we do all the time. It's our normal course of business. I think the metaphor would be something like sitting around in Executive Session of a committee and saying, wait a second, I've got to deal with my constituency; I can't vote yes or no on this bill; I've got to go home and poll my district. What we do all the time is to choose a representative who can speak with authority. That's your job sitting on this floor and it's my job sitting on this floor. This isn't new to us. In fact, I think this is exactly what we do and I have to say I'm prepared to entrust this. We, by the way, choose state representatives all the time, now, I confess, in far less significant ways, but our legislative group picks a representative to the Midwest Council of Education (sic). We don't say to them, don't represent the state unless you come home first and get approval. We send our Director of Insurance down to the NAIC. Mark Quandahl doesn't