

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

March 31, 2003 LB 265

government and one that does enormous service. Handgun means any firearm with a barrel of less than sixteen inches. I don't know how well anybody would conceal a handgun with a barrel of fifteen and a half inches, but that's beside the point. The peace officer definition stands for itself and includes anybody with a police function in the state of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I rise in support of the underlying idea captured in LB 265. I also think that the direction that the committee is heading is a responsible one and one that I think can...can and should gain the support of the majority of the members here. I also rise to correct some things that might have been said a little bit earlier, and I'll give the paraphrase of what was said: 21-year-olds don't have proper judgment; they might be out drinking on the town, could be provoked easily, and sometimes don't make the best judgments that they may make later in life. Now, those are the same individuals that can walk in and vote. Those are the same individuals that have a number of other rights and I think it's unfair to cast that. I know Senator Schimek will probably get up and correct that statement, and rightfully so, because I think that is unfair. I think that is wrong to cast that judgment on a group of individuals, I don't care who they are. I don't care what broad-based group you want to put together, I think it's unfair to cast society in that type of light. And so, as a young person in the body and as an individual that probably knows quite a few more 21-year-olds than most others here, those aren't the people that I know and those aren't the people that I went to school with at the university, and that wasn't too long ago either. So, from that standpoint, I think it's drastically unfair to make those accusations and to make those broad-based statements. The other side of this that seems to be interesting to me is that we're going to go back to the Wild West, if you will. Okay. So if I've gone to Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana,