

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

April 14, 2003 LB 454

responsible for using qualified personnel and for funding the drug court. A lot of those dollars are federal at this point, but the counties and cities are pitching in and, remember, the participant pays part of the fees and costs. At a future date, the state may be requested to kick in, but at this point no General Fund dollars go to this program. We've talked a lot about community corrections on the floor this year. LB 454 offers a solution and already in place in Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster, Cheyenne, and four counties of Hall, Adams, Phelps, and Buffalo. They make up the Central Nebraska Drug Court. Three more neighboring counties have asked to join the drug court and are in negotiations with the drug court board at this time. A total of approximately 400 people are currently participating in drug courts in Nebraska. Central Nebraska Court currently has 56 participants. Here's what you get with LB 454: express authorization for courts to have a drug program; a restating of the constitutional duty of the Supreme Court to create rules; defendants learning self-responsibility again; substance abuse treatment; low recidivism rates; a low-cost community alternative to incarceration and probation. What more could you ask for? I ask for your support in advancing LB 454.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. First person wishing to address the bill is Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Senator Aguilar, I'd like to get you to turn your attention to page 3 of the bill, and we're working from the green copy, because there are no committee amendments. Are you there?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Beginning in line 9, we have a nondiscrimination paragraph, and this is what it says: "The drug application process shall not discriminate against a person applying for participation in a drug court on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, indigency, handicap, or familial status." Why was sexual orientation excluded or