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Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 17, 2003

LB 267

AM1249.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I want to start by thanking Senator Tyson for letting me attempt to put this amendment on his bill, and for the cooperation of Senator Brashear in the process. This bill has to do with the licensing of private investigators. And I first became interested in this subject about a year ago when a constituent of mine attempted to obtain a license in Nebraska to be a private investigator. So I got to looking into it and I found out that the Secretary of State, who's in charge of that, by statute, had adopted some rules and regs, after a consultation with other licensed private investigators in the state, and one of those regulations was that the applicant needed to have 3,000 hours of verifiable investigative experience, and the difficulty of trying to get that 3,000 hours is very evident. The Secretary of State has the option of defining what that is, and so that's good, but there are places in the state where you cannot be hired on for a year and a half, is what that would be if you figured 8 hours a day, 40 hours a week, to shadow someone or be employed by some law enforcement agency to gain the type of experience needed to do this, and so it becomes very difficult for some people in this state to comply with that requirement. So I decided that I would try to bring this amendment to this bill today. What it does is, as it says, is on page 3, at the bottom, on line 25, it changes the word "licensee" to "applicant," and then as you turn it over on page 4, beginning with the word "such," strikes the rest of the sentence and merely says that honesty, integrity "and shall have 1,500 hours of verifiable investigative experience." The 3,000 hours, as I said, was determined after the Secretary of State's Office consulted with other licensees. Secretary John Gale inherited this regulation. It's been in place since 1998. Upon visiting with him, I found out that he...this amendment is acceptable to him. And I must bring out before someone asks me, this idea did not have a legislative hearing, but I decided to bring it to you anyway because it is acceptable to the Secretary of State, and his words were that this amendment is acceptable to him as the simplest and most efficient way of adjusting a regulation that appears to be excessive and impractical. So this is with his blessing, and so that's why I bring it to you