

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 407

CLERK: Mr. President, I'm sorry.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry, go ahead.

CLERK: Well, Senator Dwite Pedersen would offer AM1778.  
(Legislative Journal pages 1761-1762.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Pedersen, to open on AM1778.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. From the very start I want you to know that this would be a very bold move on the part of the Legislature. But I believe that the constituency we have in the state of Nebraska is asking us to make bold moves. There is two handouts I gave to you. The bill itself is on your laptops. I tell you what this bill does. It closes a prison. It does not close the juvenile facility in Omaha and it does not close the Work Ethic Camp. Them are to be talked about probably later. Somebody else is bringing them up. I do have an amendment for that, but that is something that I want to talk about. This one I take very seriously. I spent a lot of time on it and I especially thank my office staff for all the time they have put in on it and all of the information that has been given to me by the Department of Corrections, which has been very supportive in information. They are not aware of what the amendment does. That was done purposely, must be honest about that. This amendment would close the Lincoln Correctional Center, which is a facility that is west of town here in Lincoln. It has in it 468 prisoners. If you look at the long form, these forms are put out by the Department of Corrections. It's their Nebraska Department of Correctional Services monthly data sheet. The last one we have is April 14. At that time, if you look at inmate population, LCC had 468 actual inmates. Now the boldness of this bill would be if we close that facility we would be asking the Parole Board to parole that many people because there is no other beds for these people to go into. But if you would look at the other form I handed out, we can talk about some other numbers. The total parole eligibility people, the people that are eligible for parole today in the Department of Corrections is 1,539. Now we can't parole all them people