

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

May 16, 2003

LB 208

Committee might have some input on an issue this significant. Also, the Judiciary Committee has worked extensively on the concept of community corrections. And Senator Dwite Pedersen has an amendment coming up on this that appears to me to address some of those concerns. And maybe that could be incorporated, and they have the experience to do that. I have never before, in five years, that I can recall, filed a bracket motion on anyone's bill. It is, I feel, notwithstanding Senator Chambers' actions, I feel that's very significant to bracket a bill. But I am very concerned that this language, even though it's been recodified, is indecipherable, it's incomprehensible. Whether or not it accomplishes the goal of enhancing penalties for repeat offenders, I cannot tell you if it does that or not. And if any of you can read it and find out if and how much it does, and what the implications are, then help me. But as far as I'm concerned, I can't tell you exactly what this bill does. And because of that, I feel that it needs more work. And I don't believe that the place to do that work is on the eighty-first day of the Legislature on the floor. I appreciate all the hard work that's gone into it. But again, to me, if we're going to go through the effort of recodifying and enhancing our penalties, we should go to the effort of clarifying them so the average citizen here in Nebraska understands what's expected of them. And again, Senator Kruse, I apologize for taking this, I consider, a rather drastic step. But I feel like we have an obligation to put forward statutes that are understandable, and I don't believe that this is. I would urge your support on the bracket motion, and be happy to entertain any questions or discussion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Mr. Clerk, do you have an announcement?

CLERK: Mr. President, Exec...the Revenue Committee will hold an Executive Session now in Room 2022. Revenue Committee, now, in 2022.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. On with discussion of the bracket motion offered by Senator Bourne to LB 208. Senator Kruse.