

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

May 19, 2003

LB 598

wouldn't eat their life up continually, and they could move on, and they would probably be better people. Some of them would be young enough that they would run again for the positions. I think any time we think that some of us old ducks in here are indispensable, why, we have to look over our shoulder. I think...I have...I don't want to be critical of those that have been here a long time. They have the expertise and that sort of thing. But the way it is right now, the voters voted it in. So I think we probably got to live with it for a period of time. When the voters decide that it isn't working any better, or if you can raise salaries so that more people will seek the office, I think it will probably take care of itself. Right now I'm not going to support this bill to repeal the term limits. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. There have been some interesting things said here this afternoon. I guess I had to put in my 2 cents. And I have to, once again, quote...kind of paraphrase...Edmund Burke, who said that the people who make the most noise are not necessarily the ones that have the best interests of the state at heart. There have been some letters to the editor, yes. There always are on issues like this. There haven't been that many. There have been a few. What I guess I would like to say to those groups...and there are the groups out here that Senator Bromm mentioned to you. I'd like to say to them, I'd like to see a few letters to the editor from them, saying, yes, we think this is not a good idea. And tell the people of Nebraska why. This isn't self-serving. This is an issue that has to do with the integrity and the workability of the Legislature. And I think that we, as well as the citizens, should have a viewpoint on this. And unfortunately, we haven't really made our viewpoint known before. And the money came into the state, and the arguments were all on one side, and the thing passed. As Senator Hudkins just reminded me, it was just about 70 percent the first time around, and then it dropped, and then it dropped. It's actually been on the ballot four times. This last time, it was 56 percent. I think people are beginning to talk about and realize what term limits will do to this body. And we've had