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LB 439

AM1971 to LB 439.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I would first of all like to especially thank Senator Hudkins again for allowing us...and I say "us" because this amendment involves a number of people who have worked on it over time. But I wanted to thank her for allowing us an opportunity again to perhaps get this matter considered by the Legislature this year. This is actually the third time that by one means or another we've had a brief discussion on this amendment. But the amendment essentially creates the Office of the Capitol Administrator, under the Nebraska Capitol Commission, and under the Governor. And it also combines into the amendment Senator Chambers' bill having to do with the relationship of the Legislature to the Capitol building and to the allocation of space in the Capitol building. And there have been a number of others who have had input and have shaped parts of this particular amendment, including Senator Engel and Senator Wehrbein and Senator Schimek and Senator Landis, and others who I'm probably neglecting to mention. But I wanted to say those things so that you knew that this involved a lot of people. This is not my work, by any means. Having said that, the amendment does combine two bills, for the same purpose, really. And that purpose is to provide more focus on and more accountability for the care of the State Capitol building itself, which we all recognize as unique, and its grounds, and additionally, to give overall considerable more legislative input into what happens with the Capitol building and how it's used. I think that the purpose generally of the Office of the Capitol Commission is well stated in the bill, which is...which it says "is to provide the highest quality preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the State Capitol and capitol grounds for the perpetual use by state government and the enjoyment of all persons." And for some of you who may have heard something about the bill when it was first introduced, it was much broader. But it has now been shaped down to a very precise size. And that size is the physical Capitol building itself and the Capitol grounds. As I indicated, it creates an office. That office is guided by an advisory committee, the Nebraska Capitol Commission, that advises on a large number of subjects. But it is ultimately controlled by the Governor. And