

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

May 20, 2003

LB 430

Nebraska is actively engaged in commerce. We've had visitors from the foreign countries. And believe me, they require that there be some kind of a designation that the person that they are dealing with is a true representative of the state of Nebraska. And this, LB 430, will establish that kind of a framework, so that when someone meets our Secretary of State, they know that he can act as the chief protocol officer. And I would ask your support. This bill has no fiscal impact, in that these will just be duties that are already, frankly, being performed by the Secretary of State. With that, I request you to pass this legislative bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. You've heard the opening on LB 430. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Chairperson Schimek, you're recognized to open on those amendments.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The committee did hear the bill on...I was going to say February 14, and did advance it with a 6-0 vote, and did hear from several former Secretaries of State, as well as the present Secretary of State, as well as the NEBRASKA Land Foundation, all of them recommending the bill. The committee liked the bill, but thought that there ought to be just a slight modification on page 2, on line 25. It's in this paragraph (6)(b). It talks about that in coordination with the Governor, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Ag, and other interested federal, state, and local officials, that the Secretary of State would actively seek appropriate contacts with other officials in nations with which the state has or desires to have active trade relations. And the committee thought there should be added into that trade relations, cultural or educational, as well as trade relations. And then in the following line, we eliminated the ability to have...to conduct conferences, seminars, and meetings, thinking that we didn't want a fiscal note on this bill. We wanted to start out and have the Secretary of State have some abilities, but that maybe gradually those could be added in if they were seen to be necessary. The language taken out is not a big deal. It still leaves the ability of the Secretary of State to facilitate interchange of ideas and