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FLOOR DEBATE

January 15, 2004 LB 75

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 75, Mr. President, was introduced by Senator Hudkins. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 9 last year, referred to the Government Committee. The committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments. (AM0425, Legislative Journal page 572, First Session, 2003.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schimek, I understand you're authorized to carry the bill.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That is correct.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may...you're...you may open on LB 75.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. LB 75 is a bill that Senator Hudkins brought to the Government Committee last year, which was introduced for the purpose of trying to make certain that we had people who were qualified, could qualify to be a county sheriff. And I understand there have been some problems with that. And it...what it did is require the county sheriff to submit with their candidate filing form proof that they had attended the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and satisfactorily completed the sheriff certification course. Alternatively, they may demonstrate, or could demonstrate to the Nebraska Police Standards that their previous training is sufficient to discharge the duties of the office. And currently, the way it works right now, sheriffs have to complete the sheriff certification course within eight months of taking office. And the bill also eliminated language which punishes any sheriff who does not complete his or her training within the time allowed. Well, frankly, this procedure is problematic, because, one, after somebody is elected sheriff, it is sometimes difficult for that community to let that sheriff go so that he or she can get the training. And secondly, what if that person can't pass the training after you've spent all this time and money trying to get that person certified? So there was a lot of talk about it. And the committee finally decided that this might not be a huge problem in counties with 10,000 or less population, that the current training requirements for sheriffs could apply, but that in counties with over 10,000 in population, the candidate for sheriff should be