

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 11, 2004 LB 559

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. The amendment has been adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Synowiecki has an amendment. Senator, I understand...well, the amendment I'm going to have in front of me is FA1460, the one you just gave me, Senator.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Yes, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Right. Senator Synowiecki would offer FA1460, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal page 606.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Synowiecki, you're recognized to open on that amendment.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Senator Cudaback, LB 559 would require all applicants for Nebraska drivers' licenses to have Social Security numbers. This feature has a negative impact on aliens who are here lawfully in the United States that cannot obtain a Social Security number. Social Security Administration will not issue Social Security numbers to lawful aliens unless they are authorized to work or else have a nonwork need for the Social Security card. The Social Security Administration states that the desire for a driver's license is an approved nonwork need that will permit the assignment of a Social Security number. As a result, the amendment, FA1460, would, for both the identification card and the license, would allow for these provisions, for those that are here legally, legal aliens, to obtain a driver's license in the state. These would include--and I don't pretend to know all this...all the variances in immigration law--but H-1B visa holders, J-1 visa holders, L-1 visa holders, and so forth, and students, foreign students of those authorized here in the United States under a legal status. The amendment simply indicates that if an applicant is not able to produce a Social Security number, such person shall be licensed to operate a motor vehicle by the state of Nebraska if he or she presents to the Department a valid United States-based identification as approval by the director, and has fulfilled all other requirements as set forth in this act. Basically what the amendment does then is allow for the issuances of driver's license to those that are here in our