

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

April 7, 2004

LB 692

statute is going to be, nor should they count on what it's going to be, when all the appeals are done. It might be another year and a half before the appeals are done, I don't know, but I do not think that the litigants should be operating under the assumption that our own state law governing judgment interest, after we can't pay it and it's certified and final, is going to always be the same. If that were the case, that just doesn't make good sense to me at all. So I really see no downside...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One minute.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...of doing this. What's the worst thing that's going to happen? The low-level nuclear plaintiffs are going to say, if they win the appeal and if it's certified to district court and if it comes to our DAS and if the DAS Director can't pay it and if we can't negotiate some payment arrangement, they're going to say, oh, in April of 2004 you changed that interest rate after it's certified by DAS and you don't have the money; that's not fair; we should get the 10 percent instead. Well, then that's exactly where we are right now. So what do we have to lose by updating the statute and changing it? It makes good policy sense and I would urge the body to do it. Thank you.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, Senator Brashear, I'd like to pose a question to each of you, maybe starting with Senator Brashear, but it's the same question.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I tend to come at this from the perspective of what is the law with regard to a private Nebraska citizen suing another private Nebraska citizen, and in that case you and I and this Legislature have made rules with regard to how a judgment is executed upon, in other words how a judgment is satisfied. If the state were to be in the same role as a private judgment debtor, as we will be a judgment debtor to the...in the compact lawsuit, presumably, I'm too far away from the practice. I don't remember what the rules are. But what would happen? I