

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

February 3, 2005 LB 54

brief reminder that the committee amendment simply says that those who are veterans service officers at the county level will be...will have honorable discharges. And I told you in the very beginning that the committee counsel attempted to write the bill with no changes from current practice, and we thought that the current practice was to allow both and, upon receiving comment at the hearing here in Lincoln, we started checking around and found that the current practice, now it could have been different in the past, but the current practice is that those with honorable discharges are the ones who are serving. I'd also like to say that we have heard from many veterans service officers on the bill and, by and large, 80 percent of them, 90 percent of them do support the bill and do support the issue. I would like to just briefly read from a veterans service office in Seward County, and he says: In the past year or so it seems that veterans benefits on our state level have gained quite a bit of notoriety and created quite a stir. I believe that what is needed is clarification, not change. I believe that what happened was that our Attorney General was asked to provide an opinion concerning the status and equivalency of the discharges our veterans receive when they are released from the armed forces according to the way our state laws are written. The Attorney General gave that opinion. Throughout this whole process, I don't feel that anyone involved had any intention of either adding to or taking away any benefits that were already in existence for the veterans of our state. It seems that as time and correspondence went on, it became an issue. And I think that represents fairly well the majority, more than a majority of the veterans service officers and probably committees throughout the state. So, with that, I guess, Senator Beutler, did you wish to have a little time to ask the question that you and I talked about off the mike?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schimek, thank you for asking, but the matter is too small. Maybe John and I can have a conversation, if it...if he thinks there's anything worth doing, and let it go for now.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That would be fine. And then the last thing I