

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

March 31, 2005      LB 4

through asking Senator Howard a question. I have something else I want to proceed with, but I've got to get my thick bill book. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if we look at page 3...the page has brought me a copy of the bill, so now I don't have to lug the whole bill book back. So I do want to express my appreciation for that. On page 3, starting in line 1, this state of Nebraska could make contracts for the cooperative institutionalization in private facilities in member states for delinquent youth needing special services. Now, if a delinquent youth is the one we're dealing with, we're talking about one who has been adjudicated delinquent. If that child runs away, we don't know what is meant by special services, whether they relate to the child's mental capacity, physical disabilities, incorrigibility, or whatever. It's just a general statement out there. But a contract could be made to institutionalize that child in another state. Senator Beutler read language which seems to exempt from the operation of this compact constitutional provisions of a state, or other compacts which may conflict. But I'm not sure exactly how that will pan out. But if you go to Article I, Section 15 of the Nebraska Constitution, which some people want to trivialize by putting in stuff like hunting, fishing, and trapping, I wanted you to listen to some of the serious matters the constitution considers. All...quoting from Section 15 of Article I: "All penalties shall be proportioned to the nature of the offense, and no conviction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate," and this is what I want you to pay particular attention to, if you will, "nor shall any person be transported out of the state for any offense committed within the state." If a child commits an offense in this state, that child cannot be transported out of this state. So if they're going to say, well, but this child has special needs so we're going to transport the child out of this state by way of a contract, they need to find out what the limitations are, based on Nebraska's constitution. All of those things can be dealt with if you adopt this compact and put Nebraska into it. But there are things in it which I think it would behoove the body to be aware of. I have a question I want to ask of Senator Thompson. Senator Thompson, which state has the most say-so in helping to determine what rules and regulations will be adopted by this compact--the first state to get on board, or the thirty-fifth?