

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

April 5, 2005

LB 709

hopefully will use that to guide them in the future. That will disappear after next year. So I think that's probably the most commanding reason that we have for looking into this problem and studying it diligently at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Any further discussion from the floor? Senator Erdman, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of the Legislature, I appreciate the discussion this morning and the comments. AM1049 is before you in an effort to further clarify the appropriate levels of formal discussion that should be a part of this process. Senator Chambers is correct. The legal authority for drafting is in the two individuals named, but I believe that I'm also correct in saying that they're not going to be irresponsible with that authority and assume that it's up to them to do this. So there is nothing that further outlines that beyond the 12 people that are named in statute. The reality is that those 12 people aren't going to be speaking on their behalf. That's the purpose of this process. The Legislature is composed of 49 members. The results of the bills that are before us are not only based on the opinions of the 49 of us who are currently serving. We have hearings. We have a formal process. We also have informal processes in which we gather information, and it is in consultation with the citizens of the state of Nebraska. There are members in my district who would love to have Senator Chambers agree with their position, but they submit their proposal to him and he takes it with a grain of salt and decides whether he agrees with them or not. That's his desire in this position. This position is a little different. There are legal authorities or legal responsibilities, granted, but those individuals, if they're going to be worth their salt, are going to have to be able to make...they're going to be required to have these discussions. And if something makes sense and they don't include it, they're going to have to have a good reason why they didn't. And this is going to be an ongoing process. AM1049 before you further clarifies that to ensure that there is another level of discussion that should be held in addition to the public meetings, in addition to the district meetings. Now we have the