

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 5, 2005

LB 689

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Next, General File, 2005 senator priority bills. Mr. Clerk, LB 689.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 689 was introduced by Senator Stuhr and Raikes. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 19 of this year, referred to the Education Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments. (AM0403, Legislative Journal page 506.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Stuhr, you're recognized to open on LB 689.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LB 689 proposes the creation of the Distance Education Enhancement Task Force to look at upgrading and coordinating technology in Nebraska, especially in the area of distance education. The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force would develop an improvement plan to upgrade and coordinate distance education in Nebraska. The task force would also make recommendations for policy and potential legislation which would become...or presented to the next Legislature before the next legislative session. The task force would be challenged but not limited to include in their proposed plan issues such as the development of a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure for use in distance learning classrooms; the development of an Internet protocol-based network to interconnect all existing and future distance education and video conferencing facilities; to upgrade current telecommunications equipment; training and support programs for educators in the development and use of distance learning; the transfer of distance education coordinating responsibilities from distance education consortiums to educational service units on or before July 1, 2007; statewide coordination for distance education offerings; potential funding sources; the establishment of a equitable and affordable financing system for both equipment and usage; and the establishment of a system that allows school districts to purchase quality distance education offerings from other school districts, either directly or with educational service units acting as fiscal agents; also, statewide provisions of other technology-based services. Those