

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

April 6, 2005

LB 689A

certainly in support of the bill, even if it ends up with some other amendments when we get down to the real discussion. Actually, this is the real discussion. It wasn't that many years ago that computers were placed in our schools. We started out with one or two in a building. It wasn't an easy thing to convince board members to do that. It was new, it was different, and maybe it wasn't too efficient at the time, but it was the best we had. Then we discovered that we could Internet...or, that we could network computers. So we went back to the boards, and they had another decision to make. That meant we had to buy more computers and put in wiring and network. But we convinced them. They swallowed hard. They paid for them. Then we discovered that we could do wonderful things if we had computer labs. Back to the boards. Again, they had to swallow hard, cost a lot of money. But they did it. And schools all over Nebraska have computer labs and...in both elementary and secondary, well-used. And then we discovered that there was a need for classes in many, many small schools that they simply couldn't do, because they didn't have enough students. But we could do it. We could do it by way of Internet, we could do it by way of distance learning. The federal government got involved, and put out "e-funds" that we could apply for, which we did. The Legislature got involved. They said all these expenses could be outside of the lid. So we moved to going to classrooms, distance learning. And we chose to go mostly with interactive classrooms. That meant that pupils could interact with the teacher, no matter where she was. And these classrooms seemed to work well. Then consortiums developed all over the state. There are numerous of them. There are still a few areas of the state, however, that are not affected by this. They need to be brought into the system. Everything needs to be updated. I have enough knowledge of computers to listen to the talk and perhaps get mine to work occasionally. And when we started our first consortiums, we started out with a system called analog system. Don't know what it means, but it worked. Very short time later, they came to us and said, you know, this analog isn't work; we need to go to a JPEG system. Don't know what a JPEG system is. But regardless of how long it took, they explained it to me, and finally I came on board and says, yeah, we need to make the change. Costs more money, but we did it. Now we've reached the point where this