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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 454

to Senator Flood, if he would like to explain a little bit more about...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, it is your opening, if you...

SENATOR BOURNE: I would yield the balance of the time to Senator Flood.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Okay, thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I want to thank Senator Combs for introducing this bill, and I also rise in support of not just the bill, LB 454, but also the committee amendments. I think the Judiciary Committee worked extremely hard, under the leadership of Senator Bourne, to recognize maybe some areas in the bill that we could make changes, one of those being the change to the State Patrol. And I guess I'd like to comment on that, as this is currently the committee's time. One of the reasons the State Patrol was an attractive option is that we have a uniform state agency with the same mission across the entire state of Nebraska. Placing the responsibility of issuing these permits in the sheriff's hands could create a nonuniform system of issuing permits. Sheriffs are elected by the people. One sheriff may be different than another. My chief concern was that in Stanton County it may be very easy to get a permit, where in Saunders County it wouldn't be hard at all; or it would be very difficult, and it would be up to maybe the political leanings of the sheriff. So that's why I believe the State Patrol is the most appropriate agency. Also, the bill, in the green copy, addressed a number of different points regarding what's required in a background check. Well, the state has these records. The state has the ability to search state database for prior records, to make inquiry as a state regarding the citizenship, to notify the DMV that they need a driver's abstract, to check for any problems on a criminal record of any kind. We already, as the state, require a certain type of an eye test for a driver's exam. In Section 4 that was...or Section 7 of the green copy, that was one of the issues. So I agree with the State Patrol, with Senator Combs and the committee. Making the State Patrol the issuing agency makes