

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

May 6, 2005

LB 454

that, but I also don't believe it's going to increase crime dramatically, or if at all, in a state like Nebraska, that already has ownership, and that to some extent has people carrying guns now for self-protection, under the current law that allows an affirmative defense. So I don't believe that because of the training and because of some restrictions in the bill now, that we have to worry about either side's claims, that this is going to be dramatic, one side or the other. I think it's going to be more of a moderate situation. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. On with discussion. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Combs.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is my eighth year in the Legislature. This is one of those bills we call the perennials, because they come back every year, and we have some similar discussions on them. Unlike Senator Schimek, who is kind of appealing to those who are undecided, I guess I want to appeal to the people who also might care about how this bill is written technically, and might be concerned about passing a bill that's going to cause problems in their districts, problems for people who are going to have to implement the law. And so I have several amendments proposed to address that, but I also will say, in all honesty, that I've never been a proponent of this bill and will certainly fight it this year again. We have lots of guns, as Senator Connealy says, in our society, but handguns are another issue, other than...and that's the issue that we're talking about here. And this bill is promoted in all the states, and has been promoted in recent years, in order to sell more handguns. I think what you need to do is follow the money in these kinds of bills that come before the Legislature, and there is an economic interest in making sure people have multiple guns--one they keep at their bedside, one they may keep in their car, one in their purse. This is a way, nationally, to help sell more guns. I think that's the underlying factor and what pushes it. Now the two senators who are leading in this effort may have other reasons to do that, but I do believe that that's the primary reason that we have seen, in this country, a push for this. And also creating a culture of fear, and creating a culture where it's acceptable to solve your problems with a lethal weapon. We're