

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

May 11, 2005

LB 425

rather, five lights on. Senator Synowiecki, Senator Redfield, Senator Erdman, Senator Bourne, Senator Don Pederson. Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the Legislature. This entire subject was a...something that was considered by the Appropriations Committee throughout our process, subsequent to the Appropriations Committee budget being written. Obviously, it was a subject, again, of consideration during General File, with Senator Mines' amendment on General File. And yes, we're back again, duly considering this. In the meantime, during the interim, I've had several discussions with my city relative to this issue, obviously, as I'm sure many of us have had. And quite frankly, it does appear to me quite compelling, the arguments brought forward to me from the city of Omaha relative to the perception of the agreement that was made back a couple years ago. And quite frankly, I think there is a certain level of justification for that perception of an agreement, based upon floor debate and the floor transcripts. I think it's pretty clear. And given this, and given the fact--I think Senator Mines spoke to this a little bit--that municipalities went forward with that floor agreement, or perception of an agreement that was put together on the floor of the Legislature, they went forward--and I'm sure Omaha is not the only municipality that did this--with the budgeting for the city incorporating these funds. And now the Legislature, I think, at this point, given Senator Bourne's attempt to compromise this issue with a little bit of a lower amount, it resonates with me. And I think it makes a great deal of sense that we pursue this through this amendment, AM1570, that it is a compromised agreement, that I think there is justification for the perception that there was an agreement on the floor in 2003. And for all these reasons...and given, also, quite frankly, the compelling arguments put forward to me by my city, that budgeting was done around this perceived agreement, I think we should move forward with AM1570. I will support AM1570, and want to thank Senator Bourne for bringing this to us. I hope that we can find a way to adopt this so that we can get on with it. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.