

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

May 26, 2005

LB 645

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Connealy, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. A lot of things that have been said, you know, I agree with. I, too, want to protect public power, like Senator Engel talked about, how we can put that at risk if we get into other people's businesses, and that's why, with my amendment, there still is a retail ban. And I don't think that public entities ought to be in the retail business, and there's some of that now. We have some public entities in the retail business and in direct competition, and I think that we probably ought to stop that. But I think we ought to also give some pressure to this commission to...some urgency to it, by setting a cutoff date and saying that we're going to put everything back on the table, so that you look at every entity and that you look at every solution. And that providing service is the number one concern of this commission, not how we make the most money, or not how we divide up the pot. It's how we deliver the highest quality, lowest priced service to our consumers here in the state. And that has to be our number one goal as a public entity, I think. And I think that this temporary retail ban still align cooperative agreements and wholesale, so that you don't get into other people's businesses. You have to cooperate with a private entity, not doing it publicly. I think that's the middle ground in this. I think that that would allow us to have some urgency in the study, and allow us to think outside the box.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. On with discussion of AM1351. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I keep hearing from time to time the statement that a public entity or facility should not compete with private operations. That to me should mean that the University of Nebraska Medical Center shouldn't charge anything for any of the procedures it carries out which are provided by profit-making hospitals. No doctor should be allowed to work within, through, or in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Medical Center if those services provided by that doctor are available to doctors who are not connected with a public entity. Since there are