

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 2, 2006 LB 75

CLERK: Senator Landis, I had AM1902 that had been filed earlier, Senator, but with a note you want to withdraw.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Discussion of LB 75, advancement to E & R Initial? Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, here's what Senator Beutler has done to me. I'm not sure what I ought to do at this point. I genuinely am not. If I were sure, I would do it. I could offer amendments to hold this bill right where it is. I could offer motions to hold it here. But what I'm uncertain about is whether that's what I really, ultimately want to see happen. Senator Beutler and Senator Landis always have been willing to listen to the other side, if that's what you want to call it, or people who have recommendations, suggestions, or concerns. So unlike other sets of circumstances where, if a bill were allowed to move forward, if you have questions about the bill, you would be giving up some of your strategic advantage, if you had any by holding it where it is, that is not the case here. They brought their proposal, although in a roundabout way, very forthrightly and directly to us. We all know what it is. We all know what it's for. And because I do understand what it can do, I want to eliminate cities of the metropolitan class. There is no city of the metropolitan class in the state of Nebraska, other than Omaha. But if another city reaches the stage where Omaha is now, it would qualify as a metropolitan class city. But it's doubtful that that is going to happen. Omaha is not a fair, equal opportunity city, in the way its government operates, in its hiring, promotion, and employee retention programs. Its law department leaves a tremendous amount to be desired. The mayor's office and others will cut deals and corners to help cops get featherbeds so that they can pad their retirement income. They put them in do-nothing jobs so that they can give them thousands, tens of thousands of dollars. Then they have no serious or significant interest in the part of the city where I