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February 22, 2006 LB 771

are being done with the Nebraska Lottery winnings and with tax refunds, when the recipient of either has an arrearage in child support. I'd like to thank Senator Brashear for putting this on the consent calendar, Senator Schimek as well, and staff members—her staff members—for assistance in having LB 771 placed on the consent calendar. I'd also like to thank State Treasurer Ron Ross for bringing this legislation, and also the support of his staff in bringing this to our attention. I'd ask for the advancement of LB 771. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. You've heard the opening on LB 771. There are committee amendments, as stated. Chairperson Schimek, you're recognized to open, as Chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Before I reiterate what Senator Friend has just told you about the committee amendment, I would like to say that even though this is, I believe, a noncontroversial bill, and even though it seems like a simple bill, I think it's a really important bill. It will give our State Treasurer the ability to collect child support for those people who have had difficulty doing it in other ways. But the thing that the committee amendment does, it makes very clear that this only applies if the child support is in arrearage. If the payments are kept current and up to date, then this bill won't affect that payee at all. It is only for those who have, over the years or months or weeks or whatever, not kept up with their child support, that this bill would actually go into effect. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening on AM2115 to LB 771. Open for discussion. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schimek, a quick question, if I could.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The purpose of the bill is obviously good. It seems like such a short description of what might be a more complicated process, though, is what I wanted to ask you about.