

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

March 28, 2006 LB 1038

with us for 135 or so, plus, years--it's not quite as old as the state, but maybe in some ways it's a little older, because there were territorial fairs--that it's fairly important to many people of Nebraska, and I think has a record in recent times now of being reinvigorated, and it certainly is not a dying institution today. State fairs are popular across this whole country. It provides a sense of community in many cases for states, and I think there's no exception in Nebraska. It pulls people from all parts of the state. And since it's a voluntary thing, it seems like, to me, it's logical that it should continue on the...on our form. If it was mandatory, I probably would have a different viewpoint of that, too. But it is not mandatory, it's voluntary. People voluntarily do that. I'm even pretty sure that they're not even harassed to check it. I would guess that in most cases, if you have others preparing your form, or your own, there's no mandate, there's no force or anything else involved in checking this. You don't have to do it. It's strictly voluntary. So if people want to do that for an institution that we have, whether they go or not, I think it ought to be available to them to do it. I'll leave it up to others to decide if it's going to stay on the bill or not, but I think it's unfortunate that we're not able to do something that people can do voluntarily. It's a "may," it's not a "shall," and I think that it ought to be on there. Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Cudaback. Senator Cudaback, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. President, members, I guess I really didn't think this would be that big of an issue, being as this is a sunset, and when we did it before, we talked something like, we'll try this for three years, if it generates dollars, then we would see then if we needed to extend it. And I guess that was my opinion, it was no big deal. But obviously there are people on this floor that do not care--or, maybe that's not the right word to use--for the State Fair. I like the State Fair. Most states, most states do contribute from the General Fund to the State Fair. Most states do this. We do not contribute one dime. We took out the \$300,000 that Senator Wehrbein and myself put in. We took those dollars out, that \$300,000 for the kids' mementos, or whatever they got, ribbons