

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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States. And you'll find more about this in Section 2 of the book, which at some point, if necessary, I am going to go over this time line a little bit with you, but you can pursue it yourself. This bill is necessary because current statute does not provide our institutions of postsecondary education any guidance whatsoever on this specific issue. Something should be put into statute. The cost of education is great, and if you'll turn to Section 4, I am going to go over that with you a little bit, because you'll see how much discrepancy there is between in-state tuition and out-of-state tuition for undergraduates. And the most striking difference is probably the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, which tuition for one year, undergraduate, in-state, is \$4,100 and...or, no, I'm sorry, \$4,530, and I'm assuming that's a 15-hour semester. I don't know that for sure, but I think so. The undergraduate tuition for one year for out-of-state tuition is \$13,440, almost triple the amount that it is for the in-state tuition. The others have differences. Kearney, you can see, is over double for out-of-state tuition. Omaha university is really almost triple for out-of-state students. When you get down to the community colleges and state colleges it's not quite as glaring, but it's still almost double, and in some cases a little bit more. Tuition levels increase frequently and when in-state tuition rates are compared to out-of-state rates, it is obvious that out-of-state rates are incredibly high...higher than they are for in-state. In addition, there are other students in our state who cannot afford to attend college, but many of them are eligible for federal financial assistance loans and Pell Grants; these students, undocumented students, are not. There is legislation that is being considered at the federal level that perhaps sometime will change that, but at the present time these students do not get that kind of help. LB 239 is necessary because it can help alleviate what some call brain drain. It is estimated that approximately 7,000 to 7,500 persons aged 18 to 24 leave Nebraska every year, 7,000 to 7,500. The problem is that these individuals, leave our state, typically have a higher level of education than those that stay here. The number of 18- to 24-year-olds is projected to peak in 2005, and decline until 2018. This is mainly because of the relatively low numbers of births in the 1990s and the 1980s. The only way to reverse this loss is to keep more Nebraskans from leaving the state, or to