

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

April 11, 2006 LB 239

the university. We can't get those figures because it goes into so many different places, buildings, for instance, salaries and so forth. But, Senator, one of the things...one of the persons who came to the hearing last year on this bill was Jerry Deichert from the University of Omaha, and he talked about the demographics, primarily. He came in a very neutral capacity, I have...I want to say that for the record, and he did, to the best of his ability, the number of students that he thought it could possibly be that would be impacted by this bill. We're talking very small numbers. And for instance in Kansas, the first year they had this, I think it was only 30 students. He estimates maybe 130 students. That many students are easily absorbed into the university without additional expenditures. And as I mentioned to you, those tuition rates will come in and will add to university coffers. So the fiscal note says no fiscal impact. And you have to remember the letter that I passed out on the floor on General File. The University of Nebraska president was very strongly in favor of this bill. The Board of Regents have gone on record in favor of this bill. So I don't think that's a real issue, the cost of this bill, because there is no discernible cost to this bill. Now maybe a hundred years from now maybe, you know, you have a lot more people entering on this premise, but a hundred years from now our whole immigration policy is going to be different. The thing that I have to keep saying over and over is we can't affect immigration policy. We can only affect residency, exemptions to the residency requirement for in-state tuition. It's an education issue. And so I just don't think that's a huge issue. You had a couple of other questions that I wanted to try to respond to. Did you have any follow-up that you would like to ask me, Senator Cunningham?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. The key one was are they going to be able to work when they're done with college? If it takes as long as what I am hearing to go through the process, conceivably it could be five years or longer after they're through with college before they could even work.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And, Senator Cunningham, that's a very valid