

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

April 13, 2006 LB 1024

when I spoke that yesterday we used the Oath of Office to impeach an individual who happens to be a Regent for our university. That very oath prohibits us from passing a bill that is unconstitutional. I've said this before, that the bill is unconstitutional. You've had distributed to you a letter from the Attorney General. I would urge you to read it. The bill, in his mind--and I'm not going to go through the whole letter--in sum, while this is a cursory analysis, because I asked him for this yesterday, we feel that LB 1024 raises serious constitutional issues for your consideration. Sincerely, Jon Bruning, Attorney General for the state of Nebraska. Just so you know, the Attorney General has an obligation, if he or she determines that we pass a law that is, in their opinion, unconstitutional, they have an obligation to sue on behalf of the citizens of the state of Nebraska to prohibit that law from going into effect. Now, nowhere in this letter does Attorney General Bruning say he is going to sue. But he says his cursory analysis of the issue makes him think that there is great pause...or, great cause for concern. So again, I want to reiterate, we impeached someone yesterday, relying on the Oath of Office. That very Oath of Office says we shouldn't pass a bill that we suspect is unconstitutional. That, to me, is as clear as day. I don't think this is whining. I think this is a legitimate discussion. I voted LB 1024 out of committee, and I would do so again today, although I would ask for a little bit of a commitment that it didn't get substantially changed on the floor. But I do support the concept of LB 1024. I just am adamantly, with every fiber of my being, am opposed to the Chambers amendment that will split the Omaha school district into three minority districts...or, excuse me, into three racially divided districts. I challenge each of you to go to the map that was handed out on the floor, that was...that illustrates the Omaha Public School District. If you look at the language in the bill, it says, contiguous with two or three high schools within it. I challenge each of you to draw a map where there is not segregation. You cannot do it. You cannot physically divide up the Omaha Public School District in a manner other than a segregated manner, under the language of the Chambers amendment. Even segregation with the best of intentions is unconstitutional. There is no doubt in my mind that this bill is unconstitutional. We have had newspaper