

SENATOR CHIZEK: Well, I have some concern about that. I have an amendment that I'll be offering to the amendment.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you. Senator Abboud, please.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, to clarify what the committee amendments do, it leaves as it is, as far as with appeals from a state agency. At the current time when you appeal from a state agency you go to Lancaster County court to do that, Lancaster County District Court. What the drafters of the bill had originally envisioned was to have, if there was an appeal to a state agency, let's say there was an appeal from someone in Norfolk, Nebraska, they would go up to Norfolk, Nebraska and have the appeal up in that district court. Well, if you notice the fiscal note, it increased the cost of the bill considerably, and, more importantly, it made a substantive change with appeals processes. The idea behind the bill, it is four years in the making. It took them four years to get all the state agencies together, I guess four and a half now, to get all the state agencies together to agree to this so it is uniform and it is easily understandable. The idea behind the bill, from the beginning, was to make no changes in the current law, just make them available to the public by putting them into statute. When they change the...where the appeal should take place, from Lancaster County to the district court of the person appealing, it made a change in the law, and, more importantly, it increased the cost of it, if you'll notice in the fiscal note. So the recommendation of the committee was to say, let's just leave everything as it is, let's just have the appeals process going to the Lancaster County District Court, and we'll just make a nice, uniform, more efficient bill with less cost. I support the committee's judgment in that manner and all the members that originally drafted the bill, the state agencies, the Bar Association, they are all in agreement to the need to not make any substantive change in the law. So, with that, I support the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. I understand we have an additional amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chizek would move to amend the committee amendments. (Chizek amendment appears on page 251 of the Legislative Journal.)