

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

February 7, 1997 LB 103

senators, who were not in the body the last four or five years, who have not heard the debate, but I want to stress to you that I'm very serious about this bill. It's one that has passed this Legislature. It met an untimely veto and we chose, as a Legislature, not to try to override that veto. Most every state in the country, except for two, has a winner-take-all electoral college system. In other words, whoever wins the popular vote and the election has all the electors of that state committed to whoever won the General Election. This bill seeks to undo the policy choice that we made and Senator Schimek, I don't remember what year, certainly as her...1991, I believe it was...and at that time we moved and have been the only state, I think the other one is Maine who did the same thing back in the 70s, but this state is done in the following manner; whoever wins the popular election gets two electoral votes representing our representation in the United States Senate. The other three electors that we have are then chosen by whoever wins the districts, the Congressional districts. I have with the intent of this bill to stop what I think may be an abuse of Nebraska. I don't want to see this state embarrassed nationally. I think it was an experiment that we tried. I don't think the experiment has worked, and before the experiment causes this state some great trouble, I'd like to return us to the winner-take-all system. And it has come very close. The dangers here are this: That one individual, for the purposes of notoriety, for the purposes of making a political statement, could come into the state of Nebraska, spend millions of dollars, and attempt to gain an electoral vote. They could get one. Nebraska is a very trusting state. Nebraska is the state that is willing to listen to ideas and so on, but because of our willingness, we also are vulnerable for the person who wants to seek national attention and really could care less about Nebraska's concerns, but on election night, if they would happen to win a district, they could gain an electoral vote. If I remember back to the debates and when we went to a district election, the statement was made, well, you know, in an attempt it will draw more candidates to the state of Nebraska. More people will come and visit us. Well, it's probably true. More people fly over us than in probably any other state as they crisscross the country, but they don't land here. And in fact, there's a less of an incentive to come to us, because if you'd come to the state, you're not going to go out for those