

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

February 10, 1997 LB 111, 344

the north balcony friends of Senator Matzke, who are here today: Ken and Mary Helen Christofferson. Welcome to the Legislature. Please stand and be recognized. There are no further lights on the motion to advance LB 344. Senator Withem, would you like to close? Closing is waived. The motion before you is the advancement of LB 344 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye. Opposed nay. Anyone else wish to vote? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 344.

SENATOR BEUTLER: LB 344 advances. Next item of business, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 111. Introduced by Senator Brown. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Brown, to open.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the body. LB 111 will establish the Commission on Human Genetic Technologies. This is somewhat in response to the Human Genome Project which, in the mid-1980s, began a worldwide effort to map about 100,000 of the functional genes in the human genetic code. The...when it was initially announced it appeared that the Human Genome Project may not meet its goal. As you can tell from things you've been reading in the paper, it's probably going to meet its goal and maybe even exceed it. And having all this information has posed a number of issues for those of us who are policymakers. In 1994, the Legislature had an interim study on the use of human genetic technology information. The result of that interim study was the recommendation for the establishment of a Commission on Human Genetic Technology. In addition, many of the national organizations that we belong to have issued policy statements and many of the other states have begun to very aggressively examine policy issues and pass law in this area. Nebraska, unfortunately, is a bit behind the curve on it. And it's sort of interesting that we are in a state that had George Beetle, that has been one of the leaders in genetic technology.