

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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finally, a series of reports: One from the Department of Administrative Services; from the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District; Lower Niobrara; a report from the Health and Human Services System; Department of Roads; annual report from the Department of Revenue on the Employment Investment Growth Act; and the Nemaha Natural Resources District. (See pages 1073-78 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hilgert wishes to announce that the yellow daffodils on your desk come from the American Cancer Society for daffodil days, in support of cancer prevention. And Senator Bruning wishes to announce that there are five students, home school students, here from Bellevue and one from Omaha in the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. We turn to General File and LB 280.

CLERK: LB 280. Introduced by Senator Jensen and a number of the members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13 of this year, Madam President. At that time, referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments attached.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Jensen to open on the bill.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. As we begin deliberation on Nebraska's Defense of Marriage Act, it is very important to understand what LB 280 does and does not do. Marriage has always been defined as a legal union between one man and one woman. For over 5,000 years in recorded history, for over 200 years in the United States, and for over 130 years right here in Nebraska, it has never meant anything else. No county, state, or country in the world currently allows marriage between two persons of the same sex. Nebraska has always recognized marriage as between one man and one woman. LB 280 does not change that. It simply maintains the status quo. And I can even imagine there are some in Nebraska who are perplexed why we are even considering legislation to define marriage. It has always been an exclusively heterosexual and monogamous institution. It is