

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 5, 2004 LB 391

That's very different than speaking with dual tongues. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Landis. First item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 391, introduced by Senator Erdman. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 15 of last year, at that time referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have Judiciary Committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM3247, Legislative Journal page 1243.)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair recognizes Senator Erdman to open on LB 391.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. LB 391 is a substantial piece of policy, and the committee amendment will reflect that in its volume. LB 391 intends to change the age of majority in the state of Nebraska from 19 to 18 years old. After the hearing last spring, . . . the bill was introduced last January, so . . . January of 2003. After the hearing last year before the Judiciary Committee, it was recommended that an interim study may be conducted to further understand the impact of lowering the age of majority, and to do a comprehensive assessment of Nebraska law to determine what necessary amendments would be needed to make that requirement a reality. The Chairman of the Judiciary Committee did draft an interim study that was taken up by the Judiciary Committee in the interim. We've worked with this committee for the last year and a half on this issue. The committee counsel for the Judiciary Committee and my legislative staff have worked tirelessly on the committee amendment, and we believe it represents a good public policy change for the state of Nebraska. Nebraska is one of only four states that still has an age of majority of over the age of 19, and one of three states that do not allow minors to enter into contracts by statute. Now case law would allow some minors to enter into necessities. But under the existing statutory language, there is no such recognition. Changing Nebraska's age of majority from 19 to 18 would benefit many who are making the transition from childhood