

members of the Legislature, I would like to remind Senator Kahle that no area needs to make use of this bill and furthermore, no area can until there has been a vote of the citizens. This is a tool for flexibility within the hands of citizens of our state and Senator Kahle would take that privilege away from the citizens. They may choose to say no, they may choose to say yes, but in this time of very difficult financial situation for our state, our citizens need that flexibility and I believe that citizens should have the right to make that decision. I strongly support 591 and I trust there are enough thinking persons in this legislative body who will see 591 for what it is, a tool to be used in this economic situation in which the State of Nebraska finds itself. I urge your rejection of Senator Kahle's motion and your support for LB 591.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Wesely. Senator Beutler. Senator Sleck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, this is the first time in my life that I have had others plan to have me speak first. I do appreciate this because they do have some figures that they are going to be a little amazed about. I did some research over the weekend and was curious how much money from outstate Nebraska is funneled into the cities themselves. Using the 3% figure as a state tax, Omaha receives \$75,393,163. Of this, if we would distribute it by population across the state evenly, Omaha would get \$52 million. Lincoln collects, and using the 3%, \$30,912,000 or almost \$31 million. Distributing it by population they get \$28,600,000 so that tells me that outstate Nebraska is giving the City of Lincoln with the 3%, \$2,312,279. Now if we increase the sales tax as Omaha has got it at the present time the increase of that 1.5% in Omaha gives them \$11,062,000 that comes from outstate people or from Iowa or whoever goes to the races and such like, over and above what they collect within their own city and in Lincoln it isn't as great. The 1% that they presently now have is only \$762,000 that they are collecting from outstate Nebraska. In other words, when I come to Lincoln and spend money this is money they get from me even though I have to support my own local government. But I thought this information would be useful for you to make your decisions on this bill and other bills that are coming forward. Now I deliberately kept this from you because I didn't feel that I should jeopardize 591 any more than I had to so the balance of the senators are not getting this information until later because I have another bill that is coming up that I am very upset with. This one I have been supporting in the past but today I will not support it. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: We will go back to the top of the list now. Senator Landis.