

Nebraska. And Senator Johnson raised the question as to whether there might be some circumstances under which it would be necessary for a public body to meet outside the State of Nebraska. So what this amendment does is it opens up a little teeny exception to Senator Vickers' amendment. And let me remind you that Senator Vickers' amendment to the open meetings law was a General File amendment without the benefit of public debate. This amendment opens up a little teeny exception to Senator Vickers' amendment which says that, yes, public meetings have to be conducted in the State of Nebraska unless clearly necessary for the conduct of the public business. And the intention of that is to open up a little exception to allow a public body to have a meeting outside of Nebraska if it has to be done for some reason that we can't anticipate. And my point in bringing this amendment is that we just don't know everything. There are hundreds and hundreds of public bodies that fall within the purview of the open meetings law and as we sit here on the floor, I don't think we can anticipate each and every possible situation. I can certainly see a situation where it might be necessary to have a meeting outside the state and I would hate for our statutes to foreclose that if it were clearly necessary. So that is the gist of the amendment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers and then Senator Abboud.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the Hoagland amendment. I think it is rather strange that Senator Hoagland who has been very active in the common cause movement in the past and I believe was probably instrumental in making sure that the open meetings law was in place indicating that any body...any public body within this state had to follow the provisions of the open meetings law, had to let notices to the public and all those things that are in the open meetings law, would now say that because of some concern that there might be a need for this body to meet outside of the State of Nebraska, outside of where their constituency is at, would try to put this little hole in that provision. I believe the law was fairly clear to begin with but it was not perfectly clear. That was the purpose for the amendment that I got adopted to LB 117, to make it perfectly clear that State of Nebraska public bodies meet within the State of Nebraska and I cannot think of any reason why a public body should conduct a public meeting to make decisions affecting the public outside of the State of