

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. President. My only statement to this amendment and to all of the amendments, I know we are discussing LR 335 which has to do with Initiative 300. And I repeat again, the people have spoken, themselves, by their own initiative and their own petitions. I find these amendments unnecessary, the studies unnecessary. If the lobbyists, who are so opposed to Initiative 300, want to change the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, let them go out and go door-to-door, as the people of the state have done, to get the initiative on the ballot. No pun intended, but I see very little initiative on the part of the lobbyists to remove, from the Constitution, what the people themselves worked to put into the Constitution. You'll recall we didn't do it, the people did it. For us to even consider these studies, to me, is just again to say to the people we are going to jam it down your throat one way or the other, you voted for it, you worked for it, and it is easier for the Nebraska Realtors Association, who is opposed to Initiative 300, to come to the legislative body and say, we want you to overrule the vote of the people, and you've got to find an excuse and a way to do it. So let's do a study on it, is what they are saying, and delay it, and maybe we can find some technicalities there. What we are saying, really, is the people of the State of Nebraska that voted, a majority voted for Initiative 300, didn't know what they're doing and don't know what they are doing and, collectively, 25 senators, on this legislative floor, do know better than the people. If those 25 senators are found to agree that Initiative 300 should come out of the Constitution, let them go out and start their own initiative. I am not in favor of the Legislature going against the vote of the people and the work they put into this. Therefore, whatever amendments come up, I'll vote for the ones that I think are the most fair. But when it comes to LR 16 itself, I think that is an abomination, it's a slap in the face to the people. It is saying that certain senators are smarter than the people that are actually operating the businesses that they are in. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Scofield. Senator Rupp. Oh, whoops, wait a minute, wait a minute. I was looking at the second page. Senator Chambers is next and then Senator Beutler. ‡