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Chambers 'winner' in abortion dispute The heat of the battle is over in the Legislature's effort

to revise the state's abortion statutes, and Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers has claimed victory.

Chambers has issued repeated warnings to the Legislature that LB316 is unconstitutional, despite numerous amendments to the bill in its various stages of debate.

To dramatize his concern that the bill will not stand up in court, Chambers Friday distributed a phony veto message on Gov. Charles Thone's official stationery. Tuesday, Chambers enumerated his concerns to the Legislature.

He said provisions in the bill made a physician who performs an abortion on a minor a criminal if the minor has not consulted her parents, but has told the physician she has.

Chambers also attacked a provision of the bill requiring single minors to meet certain requirements, but married minors would not. Chambers, in a 15-minute lecture to the Legislature, argued several other legal points in the bill.

Neligh Sen. John DeCamp, one of the bill's sponsors, told the lawmakers Chambers' presentation summed up what he thought would be the legal attack on the bill.

DeCamp said he was thinkful to those who had opposed the bill, because he thought it created more intelligent decision making than before.

DeCamp then offered two technical amendments to the bill, to correct two of the legal inadequacies Chambers said existed in the bill.

The amendments passed, with Chambers casting the lone dissenting vote.

Chambers issued a final warning to the Legislature that LB316 might not stand up in court.

"You don't know if this is constitutional even with the amendments today, but you don't care," Chambers said.

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