

March 28, 1973

those in favor say aye, those opposed say no. So ordered, the amendment is adopted. Now is there any further discussion now of LB 73 as amended? Senator Goodrich, do you want to close on your bill?

SENATOR GOODRICH: No, I move it be advanced.

PRESIDENT: All right, the question is, shall LB 73 as amended be advanced from General File to E & R Initial, all those in favor will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Have you all voted? Once again, have you all voted? I suppose, okay, thank you, the Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, no nays, 24 not voting.

PRESIDENT: Okay, the bill is advanced. Move to General File consideration of LB 17.

CLERK: Title read. There are lengthy committee amendments, Mr. President, by Senator Schmidt's Agricultural committee.

PRESIDENT: All right, is Senator Schmidt in the Chambers or Senator Burbach will you handle the committee amendments?

SENATOR BURBACH: Senator Schmidt asked me if I would handle the amendments because they are amendments that I offered at the time of the public hearing on this bill. If you recall, a weights and measures bill was introduced the last session of the Legislature, it left the entire fee setting up to the Department of Agriculture. The tree, those people affected by weights and measures were concerned of the high rate put on the registration fee, they were concerned that not all measuring devices would be inspected within the period of time--within the one year period of time, so LB 17 was introduced, it did have many errors in it and after consultation with the various trade associations, with the Director of Agriculture, the amendments which I will discuss in just a moment are the ones which are in total agreement by the Director of Agriculture and what the amendments do is to spell out exactly what the fees are and they are spelled out by the Legislature in these amendments. If you have your book open, on the second page there is a schedule of fees. These fees are approximately 50% of what figures were used by the Director of Agriculture in the past year. They are an increase of a considerable amount of the old rates as they existed prior to LB 1413. For example, a scale of 50 ton or more capacity had been inspected prior to LB 1413 for \$7.50. The fee now will be \$17 or approximately \$10 higher. At that time the additional money needed for the operation of the weights and measures division came from the General Fund. Now there should be a lesser amount coming from the General Fund but approximately one half. At the public hearing Mr. Kroesher testified that the rates that he had set up were just about at a break-even point. Well now if they are reduced 50% it then requires the State General Fund to provide the other 50% to do the job and before that and I say this because the rate on that scale, the large 50 ton or over scale, was only \$7.50 now it will be \$17.00 so it will be less coming from the General Fund. The purpose of money coming from the General Fund for measuring devices is for, first of all the test is for consumer protection. Consumer protection can only be achieved by and should be paid for through the State General Fund and this, gentlemen, is the changes in the amendments to 17 and they are the changes over LB 1413 a year ago and I move for the adoption of the amendments.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the committee amendments? The question is, shall the committee amendments be adopted, all those in favor say aye. Those opposed say no. Committee