

CLERK: That is all of Select File, Mr. President.
Mr. President, LB 142.

SENATOR BARNETT: We will now go to committee preference bills. The first one in effect and the first one under discussion will be Senator Bereuter and LB 142.

CLERK: LB 142 introduced by Senator Bereuter of the 24th District. Read title. There are committee amendments signed by Senator Barnett, Chairman of Judiciary.

SENATOR BARNETT: That is all right, Vince, Vice Clerk. Senator Nichol is the Vice Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and will handle the committee amendments.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, the committee amendment was offered by Senator Bereuter and was adopted by the committee. The amendment restricts the statute of limitations to four years in cases founded on strict liability in tort among other things. Senator Bereuter, was there anything further about that that you wish to add? Nothing further. Mr. President, I move the adoption of the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, there is an amendment offered to the committee amendment by Senator Bereuter. This amendment is found on page 1589 of the Journal.

SENATOR BARNETT: Page 1589. Page 1589 of the Journal.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Bereuter will handle this.

SENATOR BARNETT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my amendments to the committee amendments have been placed on your desk. They very substantially change the nature of the bill, eliminate some of the arguments that have been raised by the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys and I would like to make my basic presentation on the bill at this time since the amendments basically reconstitute the major portions of the bill. Also being passed out to you very shortly will be some material called the "Introducer's Comments, LB 142". I may be short of time but I am going to try to make as much of a presentation as possible. I may need somebody else's time if I can have it to complete a presentation on the bill by using the amendments to the committee amendments. I think it is no news to many of you that manufacturers today, wholesalers and retailers as well, are faced with a greatly increased liability exposure for their products and the products they sell. They are being sued in increasing numbers for injuries caused by alleged product defects. As a result, some manufacturers are having difficulty in obtaining liability insurance and nearly all of them are experiencing higher insurance costs. Some manufacturers say that they will have to discontinue making some products or even go out of business or move out of the country if the present trends continue. Now I am not going to spend my time today going into a number of examples from Nebraska firms. I think all of you have received large amounts of mail pointing out those problems including those related to soaring insurance costs, the possibility of going out of business, the