

Schmit, for the bill.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as you know, LB 102 is a bill which was introduced to clarify some of the provisions of LB 1106 of the previous session. Many of those provisions that were included in that bill were perhaps drafted a bit hastily and we ran out of time toward the end of the session and so we did try to clarify some of that language. We created the Water Management Board, the Water Management Fund and we authorized the board to issue revenue bonds for water projects, also set up a system for issuing instream flow appropriations for fish, wildlife and recreation. Last summer the staff of the Natural Resources Commission, the Department of Water Resources and the Game and Parks worked to draft a bill to work out some of the bugs that we had in 1106 and that is basically what 102 is. LB 102 clarified some of the state water goals. It corrects technical error in the appointment of the Director of the Natural Resources, clarifies the various types of applications which must be reviewed by the Water Management Board and states that this review must occur before the application for water rights is filed. Also outlines the procedure to be followed to obtain an instream flow right. Under the bill, Game and Parks would, or the NRD would file directly with the Department of Water Resources for a water right. If the Water Resources Department wants a study, they could ask the Nebraska Water Resources Commission to conduct one rather than to have a study mandated by statute. I believe that is the basic content of the bill and I would be glad to answer any questions, but in all honesty it is simply a bill which we did draft to clarify some of the other provisions that were not quite clear in 1106. There were no major revisions of LE 1106 and for that I think we can all be very proud. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on LB 102? If not, the motion is to advance the bill from General File. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Please record your vote. The motion is to advance LE 102. Please record your vote. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance LB 102, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 102 is advanced. The next bill is LB 457.