

May 13, 1987

LB 138, 408
LR 198-203

program and their...and the personnel that they have in the program and have been attempting in good faith to adhere to the law and to attempt to control their noxious weeds. Unfortunately, we have other counties, in fact, several counties that have yet to certify personnel that poses a problem for us and I am hoping that we can address that at some particular point. But, as I see 138, it is really the only option that we have that is a legitimate one, one that has been brought to us by both the Department of Agriculture and the County Officials Association and the work that they have done to try and come up with a workable vehicle, and that's what we have here. I wish there was a different option that we could look at but right now 138 is probably the best thing that we can do. It certainly addresses a very serious problem that the Department of Agriculture is confronted with. They are confronted with a problem of no budget, no money, no personnel, but yet they are being sued and I have another mandamus petition right here in my hand that was filed just a month ago from Harlan County and I assume that these mandamus actions will continue to come into the state until this state takes action. That only means additional costs to the Department of Agriculture and, of course, that carries over to us and our budget here. Without changing the statutes requiring certification by the Department of Agriculture Director, these mandamus actions will continue. We are attempting to correct that in 138, attempting to keep the department from being sued and, of course, make some commitment to this program but doing it in a scaled down model and approach, recognizing our fiscal problems. So, with that, I would move for the advancement of the bill, although I know others would like to speak so I will attempt to answer questions if there are questions.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, do you have something to put in at this time?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do, and thank you. Mr. President, I have a resignation letter from Senator Harris tendering his resignation effective at three o'clock this afternoon. (See page 2265 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Warner would like to print amendments to 408. (See page 2265 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, LR 198 and 199 call for interim studies, as does 200 and 201. LR 202 is by Senator Dierks. (Read explanation.) And 203. (Read explanation.) Mr. President,