

February 21, 1991 LB 23, 32, 37, 40, 58, 82, 95, 135
147, 404

then if we don't get anything else through, why, then we'd go back to the regular way of valuing ag land. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. I'm going to interrupt debate right now to make a special announcement and to welcome special visitors to the Legislature today. They are guests of Senator Wehrbein seated in the south balcony. They are 13 members of the N.E. Junior's Extension Club from Syracuse, Nebraska. Welcome to the Chambers today and it's good to see some good Syracuse faces here. I also announce that while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 23, LB 58, LB 82, LB 95, LB 37E, LB 135, LB 147, LB 32 and LB 40. (See page 755 of the Legislative Journal.) We'll now proceed with debate and I'll recognize Senator Wehrbein followed by Senators Abboud, Lamo, Lynch, Nelson, Will, Schmit and Warner. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, members, I think in the spirit of this, it may be technically germane to the bill and I guess I won't argue that point, but I would question if the spirit of this is germane to the reason that LB 404 was passed. As you know, we had three votes, constitutional amendments, proposals, to do something special, if you will, with ag land valuations. In order to avoid a hurried discussion and a hurried decision on how we probably could arrive at valuating the farmland, this method, LB 404, was put into place. And I would submit the spirit of the constitutional amendments have been done in the way that we approached LB 404. As mentioned, ag land could have gone up 14 percent this year. That puts it at 36 percent of value if you figure it backwards. Many of the proposals to put on ag land were 75 and 80 percent so I still feel that we are probably at least fairly valuing farmland or at least proposed values on farmland and that we are at the same time at least attempting to implement the constitutional amendment as passed by the people. I think after three votes the people of Nebraska did know what they were doing. You can't keep continually saying they were not aware of what they were doing. They did not know that this was going to be a shift, that they did not know this and they did not know that. After three votes they certainly ought to have been aware of what they were doing as they passed on this constitutional amendment. So I would submit to you that LB 404 is a fair way at this time to address this issue for agricultural land. We can address the homestead exemption issue in another bill if that's the way the Legislature feels, but I think in order to properly implement