

April 30, 1991

LB 49, 212, 497, 511, 730
LR 17, 27

bill will not be considered. We have LB 212, which mandates the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission conduct a study and present its findings to the Legislature by July 1, 1992, regarding conjunctive use and integrated management of surface and groundwater; LB 49, which allows the Department of Water Resources to protect water introduced into a stream from a nonreservoir source to its point for use throughout the designated reach where flows are required; and LB 497, which would place the issue of the quality of both surface and groundwater resource within the responsibility of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund and would allow access to the funds for water quality control...protection program. LB 511 is currently on General File. It originally had been indefinitely postponed by the Government Committee, was revived and placed on General File by the vote of the full Legislature. This legislation's purpose is to grant broad authority to county boards to exercise specific zoning to protect rivers and stream corridors. The Nebraska (sic) Resource Committee is currently holding the following bills for additional consideration; LB 730, which would specify that any party located within the basin of origin would be deemed a party in the interest of any proceedings involved in interbasin transfer of water; and LR 17CA, a proposal for the constitutional amendment, which would establish in the State Constitution a municipal preference for the priority of appropriations of water in natural streams, Article XV, Section 6. These bills...I introduced this amendment, I guess, is that I think that simply with the idea that we do have an ongoing process as far as water issues are concerned, and I think that we have come, Senator Elmer and myself, to kind of a general agreement is that we will take part of this, another amendment, take part of this one and pass his amendment with some language from this amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I would rise in support of the Hartnett amendment, and ultimately the next amendment that will be offered by Senator Elmer. I am encouraged by the fact that we seem to be coming to a workable compromise on this issue. We have moved away from a comprehensive water plan or a statement that we have one, and moved into discussing that current water laws are a legislative framework, which I think is a more realistic approach to what actually exists in Nebraska, and believe that we need to look at current legislation that is being considered by this