

March 24, 1992      LB 1008, 1257

CLEK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. I will call on Senator Horgan to close on his amendment.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Again, I would simply encourage you to adopt the amendment. What the amendment does, it moves LB 1008 into 1257. LB 1008 sets up the structure that every other city, or town, village in the State of Nebraska has the authority to do, and that is to collect a garbage fee. Also allows the City of Omaha, as other communities, have the authority, through their local utilities, to bill out on their water bills the collection fee if they so implement it. You need to realize that this does not set a fee. It does not tell the city to set a fee. It doesn't tell them what the fee should be. It doesn't mandate any fee. It doesn't require any type of project or expenditure of money, and with Senator Chambers' amendment that was added yesterday, it says that a city of the metropolitan class, before it wants to implement any such fee, would have to go to a vote of the people. And it simply says now that the enabling legislation is there for all of the other communities except a city of the metropolitan class. Here we move in enabling legislation for a city of a metropolitan class, and gives the City of Omaha the authority it has always had except, except Omaha would have to go to a vote of the people. No other community will have to do that, or has ever had to do that, but as the bill will stand, the City of Omaha will have to do that before they even think, or contemplate, or begin to discuss implementing such a fee. And I think as the bill stands now, it is a reasonable thing to do, and as 1257 stands, as we move into solid waste disposal issues and additional solid waste disposal issues and costs come about, it is going to...you know, all the other communities in the state are going to have the authority to implement fees relative to this. Senator Chambers said yesterday before the City of Omaha would do that, under 1257, they have to go to a vote of the people. So this is simply enabling legislation that puts that structure in place. It is reasonable. It does not mandate anything on the city. You are not voting for a garbage fee. You are not suggesting to the city that they do it. You are simply giving the local community the authority to talk about it, basically, and to put it now to the vote of the people. So I would encourage your support of the adoption of the amendment.