

bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Will, followed by Senators Wesely, Peterson, Schimek and Hartnett. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to the motion to return. I was the introducer of LB 1105 which is a bill that was amended into LB 415 to which Senator Crosby is referring. It was brought to me by the League of Nebraska Municipalities and simply amends some of the publication requirements for cities under a hundred thousand, as the bill now reads. Simply put, currently these cities are required to publish, I believe it's on a quarterly basis, the names and salaries of all city employees. They're required to purchase advertising in order to do that in the local newspaper. What my amendment would do and what LB 415 now does is simply require that they do it on an annual basis and that they purchase or that they...that they print not the name of the employee but the position. There are several reasons for this. I think probably, first and foremost, the argument that the cities gave was that currently when the names of their employees are printed nearby facilities, nearby private entities or public entities that would like to hire someone who is skilled in a particular area simply use that as a shopping list. It's a free shopping list for them that, in effect, the city adver...pays for advertising to advertise their employees to other employers. So, obviously, it causes some consternation among city officials who have their employees shopped around basically by the advertising requirements. My argument would be that the requirements currently in 415 simply listing the job title of the individual sufficiently descriptive so the public knows what the job is that that person does is far and away sufficient to fulfill the public obligation of the...of the cities. But even if that's not the case, there is not one thing in LB 415 that keeps the newspaper from going to the employment roster of a city, from getting that roster which is public record and from printing that as a news story with the names, with the salaries, with as lengthy a job description as the newspaper wants. The simple fact is that the reason the newspapers don't want LB 415 is because they don't want to lose the advertising revenue that the cities have to pay them in order to...in order to print these names on a quarterly basis. That's the reason the newspapers are against it. It has absolutely nothing to do with the first amendment or with the