

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 139 was introduced by Senator Bernard-Stevens. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 7th of this year, referred to the Ag Committee. The Ag Committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Dierks, on the committee amendments. Senator Cudaback, as the Vice Chair of that committee, can you handle the committee amendments? Senator Dierks is on his way here. Senator Dierks, we are on the committee amendments to LB 139.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry that I was a little late here. The committee amendments just simply place a cap on the...on the fee. And I think that's as simple as I can put it, it just places a cap on the fee that's collected.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Wehrbein, on the committee amendments. Any discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you wish to close, Senator Dierks?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, to be a little more specific, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, it places...at five cents per dollar assessment is collected. So, that's the cap.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. You've heard the closing on the committee amendment, we'll now vote on those. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you like to open on your bill, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This bill simply would allow the Brand Committee to contract with any public or private organization in order to collect assessments for the organization on the sale of cattle, beef and beef products. The bill allows the Brand Committee to charge for the collection of such assessments. In essence, in the collection of the fees that they've had it's been difficult for them to get all of the collection. They feel that they've had a leakage of about 75,000 that could have been and should