

January 20, 1994 LB 421, 858, 859

favor say aye aye. All those opposed say nay. LB 858 advances. LB 859.

CLERK: I have no amendments, Senator, to 859.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: I move to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. LB 859 advances. We now move to LB 421.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 421, a bill originally introduced by the Transportation Committee. The bill is on Select File. Enrollment and Review amendments were adopted on June 2nd of last year. At that time, there was a motion to bracket the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Kristensen, would you like to open on the bill?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the Legislature. As a matter of review, let me start back with and bring you an update of where we are at and what we were doing. LB 421 is commonly known as the "one-call" bill. If you remember, last year there was considerable debate. The bill came out of committee as a nonmandatory operation, and what this deals with is buried underground facilities. They are generally for utilities, the transportation of gas, telephone lines, water, et cetera, and the danger is that before you dig, you ought to know the location of those activities and that the damage caused by digging without knowing where these facilities are, are not only, one, dangerous but, two, a huge inconvenience and of a great financial jeopardy to a number of people. The bill was brought to us because there is a mandate from the federal government to place some sort of one-call system in place for gas companies, and the transmission of natural gas and other gaseous matters. The key to this is that this is not one of those huge penalties, and I don't think it is probably legitimate for people to say, well, gee, the federal government is requiring us to do that because, quite frankly, the penalty wasn't that great. That's one we could probably walk away from and say, no, we don't want...we don't care to do that and we could suffer the penalty. We do have a one-call system working