

March 9, 1994

LB 863, 984, 988, 989  
LR 332

have items for the record first?

CLERK: I do, Madam President. New resolution, LR 332, by Senator Crosby and others. (Read brief summary of LR 332.) Education reports LB 863 and LB 989 to General File with amendments. Confirmation hearing notice from Natural Resources. Senator Ashford has amendments to LB 988 to be printed. (See pages 1073-76 of the Legislative Journal.)

Madam President, LB 984, a bill originally introduced by Senator Wehrbein and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 7 of this year. At that time, it was referred to the Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Revenue Committee.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, the committee amendment to LB 984 in part is somewhat of a rewrite of the...as the bill introduced, but I will briefly describe the contents of the committee amendments, some of which at least conceptually was in the bill as originally introduced, maybe somewhat modified. I believe there are other amendments to the committee amendment when we get to it. But the...essentially the five things that are contained in the bill is that, number one, there is a...or excuse me, in the committee amendment, there is a one-cent checkoff on all corn and sorghum to be collected with the current checkoffs on commodities. The projected revenue is roughly \$8.6 million. Originally, the bill, as introduced, was three-quarters of a cent but this changes it to one cent. Secondly, there is a provision in the committee amendment for a two-cent excise fee tax on all grain going into a plant receiving production credits which is to be collected by the Department of Revenue and any one cent checkoff paid on the grain is a credit against that two cents excise tax, that is if the producer has paid the one cent or prior to this, why they would not pay another two but just an additional one. The maximum anybody would pay is two cents. That provision raises approximately 1.8 million. The next change would be in the committee amendment that the two taxes which commence running July 1, 1994 and would be in operation to June 30 of the year 2001. The one cent checkoff also may be reduced by the State Board of Equalization if the revenues are sufficient, that is if there less needed than what is projected here they can reduce that checkoff amount in the future. Then additional