

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 1, 1999 LB 66

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair recognizes Senator Hilgert to open on LB 66.

SENATOR HILGERT: (Microphone not activated.) Thank you, Mr. President, members. LB 66 combines basically two concepts: one, it's a department...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator, if you could wait just a moment, we'll try to get your mike to work. Senator.

SENATOR HILGERT: (Microphone not activated.) Yes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members. LB 66, basically, combines two concepts; one, it's a department revision bill which talks about the jurisdictional thresholds and the revisions of the Boiler Inspection Act regarding inspections. Mr. Albin, from the Department of Labor, is in the back if you'd have any specific questions. The second concept it does incorporate is it raises the threshold of inspection levels for hot water supply boilers, from a hundred thou...150,000 BTUs to 200,000 BTUs. Basically, you would free up approximately, what, 2,000 boilers from having to be inspected. These boilers that we're talking about are three or four times larger than your standard home boiler. Many of them have glass linings. I have been told by some that they are unaware of any safety problem that has ever been caused by these hot water boilers, and it's, basically, a burden on a lot...it's an expense on industry that they felt that they really didn't need because of the lack of a safety feature, frankly. So we're, basically, saying if you have a 150,000 to 200,000 BTU boiler, you no longer need inspection. That was a 60 dollar a year fee, and they felt it was rather extraneous. I contacted interested parties prior to doing this because, certainly, I don't want to advocate for anything that seems to be unsafe, so I contacted both organizations which deal specifically...we're dealing with nonpotable water, et cetera, and these hot water boilers as well as the department, everyone...there seemed to be broad consensus and no opposition that we needed to inspect these. It came out of committee with no dissenting votes and would be here to answer any questions, should you have them.