

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 16, 1999 LB 73, 97, 115, 171, 174, 175, 179, 184, 217
229, 240, 241, 242, 262, 332, 337, 352, 414
444, 451, 482, 518, 521, 543, 592, 621, 659
698, 712, 719, 779
LR 18, 20

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Business and Labor reports LB 174 to General File; and LB 444 as indefinitely postponed. Your Committee on General Affairs reports LB 659 to General File; LB 719 to General File; LB 97 as indefinitely postponed; and LB 184 and (LB) 262 as indefinitely postponed. Mr. President, designation of priority bills by the Speaker to be inserted in the Journal (re LB 73, LB 115, LB 171, LB 175, LB 217, LB 229, LB 240, LB 241, LB 242, LB 332, LB 337, LB 352, LB 414, LB 451, LB 482, LB 518, LB 521, LB 543, LB 592, LB 621, LB 698, LB 712, LB 779, LR 18CA, and LR 20CA). Senator Lynch, amendments to (LB) 659. And I have a Reference Report referring gubernatorial appointee to the Standing Committee for confirmation hearing. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (See pages 996-1000 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Continuing with senator priority bills and General File, LB 179.

CLERK: (LB) 179, Mr. President, introduced by Senator Preister and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 8, referred to Revenue Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. To open on LB 179, Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I am pleased to be able to introduce this homestead exemption measure. It is something that has been of concern to me for some time. In its original form, LB 179 basically increases the income eligibility allowances for a married couple by \$5,000, and for a...married or related persons, and for single people it would increase the income that they could make and still qualify by \$3,000. Basically, the purpose is to allow more senior citizens, disabled persons and veterans to remain in their homes and not be forced to sell their homes, merely because the property taxes are more than they can afford. It keeps these people in their communities with friends and neighbors, and provides a tax break for people who have contributed to their communities for many years. I have received, as probably a number of you, letters from constituents, have heard from many of the constituents who are concerned because these are some of