

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

January 20, 2000 LB 725  
LR 74

Utilities District have developed over a long period of time. They go back to about 1911, when it is my understanding from talking to the committee's legal counsel that the statutes have been built on over the years and, of course, with the advance of natural gas another set of statutes were layered upon existing statute and confusion has been part of the problem. And it is a big part of the problem for the city of LaVista, and it impacts safety issues, it impacts emergency response, it impacts a lot of things. There was a study last year commissioned through the work of the Urban Affairs Committee and it is LR 74, and I would like to talk with Senator Hartnett, who is engaged in another discussion right now, but we're going to, through some negotiation here, I'm going to hold up this bill...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Pardon? Is that a question of Senator Hartnett?

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...yes, so I'm just waiting, stalling till he has a chance to speak. But, essentially, what I'm trying to do is get on record that the concerns of LaVista and the city and others who support this bill, in front of you there is an outline of the original bill, a letter of support from the city, and a letter of support from the League of Municipalities. This is a critical issue for the city and is supported by the League of Municipalities, and I want to get on record that, if this bill is not debated today, that it will be studied as part of this resolution that created the study last year. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes. Senator Thompson, if you'd want to ask me some questions?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes, I would like to know the status of the study.

SENATOR HARTNETT: The study has two elements in it. We're going to look at the rates that are paid by natural gas; we're going to look at the gas that is furnished under the Municipal Natural Gas Regulation Act, that's most cities. We're also going to look at publicly owned utility gas companies, which is