

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We move to debate on advancement of the bill. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. Speaker, I want to be brief. I, obviously, rise in support of the bill. The bill is one of a series of several bills that have come from the Revenue Committee creating exemptions from the state sales tax for various political subdivisions. We had one that was effective for NRDs. We have one that has also been reported out of the committee for agricultural societies. We may not be able to extend that exemption to all political subdivisions in the state of Nebraska but, in general, it is consistent with broader policies regarding the taxation of governmental entities by another. I would be remiss if we did not call to your attention, to Senator Wehrbein's attention and to your attention, that this bill does have a fiscal impact and the fiscal impact, due to the fiscal note that we saw last year, was \$600,000, followed by an \$800,000 fiscal impact. I want to make the point that tax exemptions, tax credits, tax rebates, tax abatements, anything that we do that affects the revenue structure of the state of Nebraska is just like spending money. So, as you vote for Senator Jones' bill, you can expect that you're spending, and you'll find this out later when...when the...when the green sheet comes out and we begin to see how we're going to put together the budget and to meet the needs of the state of Nebraska out of its revenues, that this bill will reduce state revenues. Now it's appropriate that it reduce state revenues and I'm going to vote to reduce state revenues, but I think as all of these bills come up, not only Senator Jones' bill, I'm not going to pick on you, Jim, there are other bills of this kind and all of those, in my estimation, are spending bills. Now maybe it's spending we should do; maybe it isn't spending we should do. That's ultimately a decision for us to make, but they are spending and they spend into the future and we are unlikely to ever visit them again. So when you vote, you're spending money and you're probably spending it on a long-term, ongoing basis. It's appropriate to do that in this instance, but please think about that as other issues of this kind come before you. Thank you.