

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

January 19, 2001 LB 177

Report of registered lobbyists for this week, and a series of reports from the Health and Human Services System, Energy Office, and from...well, those are the reports that I have. Those will be acknowledged as received and on file in the Clerk's Office, available for member review. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 347-353.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Moving on then on our agenda to General File, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first bill this morning, LB 177. It's a bill by Senator Bourne. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 4 of this year, referred to Urban Affairs Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. To open on LB 177, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This, LB 177 is a fairly straightforward bill that is designed to eliminate duplicative government procedures. When the Metropolitan Utilities District was set up in 1913, it was established that the Douglas County Treasurer was the ex-officio treasurer for this political subdivision as well as many other political subdivisions. As time went on, the county treasurer, their role as the ex-officio treasurer was removed from other political subdivisions and yet it still remains for the Metropolitan Utilities District. Basically, what happens is the Metropolitan Utilities District collects receipts, and then those receipts have to be sent over for review by the Douglas County Treasurer. This is, basically, a streamlining of government functions. The Metropolitan Utilities District still has to do an annual audit by an independent third party, and that audit is referred on to the State Auditor who can review the records to make sure everything is in line, so there is no danger to the public. Let's see, the Douglas County Treasurer is supportive of this change. They feel that it would, you know, it would save time and effort and money in their office as well as in MUD. It's, basically, a streamlining issue. There is no danger to the public as there is still audit measures in