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February 1, 2001 LB 244

Journal pages 485-488.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We next move to LB 244.

CLERK: LB 244, a bill by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 5 of this year, referred to the Transportation Committee for public hearing. Bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LB 244 was here at least the last couple of years prior to this year, and the committee looked favorably upon it previously and, after the hearing this year, the committee advanced the bill without any dissenting votes. That's not to say that the bill is...is a slam dunk at all, and I don't intend to infer that. It...it may...it may not be at all. What the bill is, is the Legislature's intent and statement to join the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact. I have handed out to you some information regarding that compact, primarily which has been furnished to us by the Council of State Governments, the Midwestern Office. And, in fact, the lady with...with the Council of State Governments, Laura Kliever was here and testified at our hearing. The packet that I've handed out I think gives you a summary what this is all about, the purposes. Basically, what...what the primary purpose of this is, is to create a compact of midwestern states, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, to create a compact to present a unified voice to Congress, if you will, in the hope of obtaining support from Congress in the way of financial support, to look at the feasibility and eventually, if feasible, the construction of high-speed passenger rail service between the major cities in the Midwest. In the back of the packet that I handed out you will see what they have in mind as far as the Midwest High-Speed Rail Network, and it would connect...the hub would be Chicago, but if...if it progressed it