

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

February 22, 2001 LB 31, 730

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 31.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 31 advances. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 730, Mr. President, a bill by Senator Hartnett. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 17, referred to the Urban Affairs Committee; the bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments. (AM0223, Legislative Journal page 486.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hartnett, you're recognized to open on LB 730.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, this bill would allow cities of first class, other than the ones that have a city manager or commission form of government, by a vote of the registered voters, to nominate and elect some members of their city council at large, as well by district, which is currently done in Lincoln. The city council of any eligible first class city which currently elects members of its city council by ward may submit to the voters the question of nominating and electing some of its...of its council members at large. The question may be submitted by adoption of an ordinance by the city council, which would require three readings of the ordinance and three meetings, public hearing, possible veto by the mayor, council override, et cetera; in all provide public notice and facilitating public discourse on the topic, or by petition of the people...of the registered voters of the city. No more than three members of the enlarged city council may be elected at large, and at least four members of the council may...must be elected by district to assure...to assure that the majority of council members are elected by district. The terms of the at-large committee members, if more than one, are to be staggered. If there are more...if there are two at-large members, they cannot be elected at the same election; and if there are three at-large members, no more than two may be elected at the same election. The number of at-large council members be specified in the petition or ordinance, and the petition or ordinance must be specified the first year in which the new council members will be elected. No candidate may