

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

April 4, 2001

LB 242

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Baker would move to amend Senator Raikes' amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Baker, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the Raikes amendment.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body. My amendment strikes on page 2, I don't know whether it's up on the machines yet here, but on page 2, it strikes line 14 that the requirement of a member of the school board file the accountability and disclosure statement. We are having a very difficult time getting anyone to serve on the boards in these rural areas out there, school boards. I know that we've had to appoint members. There simply hasn't been people enough to run for the vacancies, and we've had to appoint school board members in many cases in rural Nebraska. And I'm afraid we'd be...end up with appointed boards all too often at the way it is, but we'd increase that frequency right now if we passed this amendment with that in there. I'm willing to discuss classes, school...you know, districts, but I just...for rural areas, it's tough enough to get people to serve and I...I think you'll hear some other people say the same thing that if I had to go file a disclosure statement to even run for this, I don't...I just wouldn't do it. And as I said, we're filling board vacancies now with appointments because we don't have enough people to run for those vacancies, and if you want specific school boards, I can get several, I'm sure. I'd have to go check and see who was appointed what the last election, but there just aren't enough people running now and this would just make it all that tougher to get people to file, and I...and also even to appointed members then. I, you know, you'd have to go even if they're going to be appointed, you're going to have to file this. So I, for one, oppose that line 14 on page 3, and my amendment would strike that, and would hope that you would vote for my amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Baker. Debate on the Baker amendment, Senator Wickersham, followed by Senators Cunningham and Burling.