

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

May 19, 2003

LB 95, 655

if that is the desire of the parents. I urge you all to vote for LB 95. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. You've heard the closing. All in favor of the advancement of LB 95 please vote aye, and opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 95.

SPEAKER BROMM: LB 95 does advance. We'll go to LB 655, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 655, a bill by Senator Schimek. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 22, referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'm pleased to introduce this bill on behalf of OPPD. But I'm also pleased because I believe that the committee amendments solve some other problems that we have with liens. And in fact, with the Quandahl amendment to the amendment and his bill that is amended into the bill solves a problem that I've been trying to work on and get taken care of for a couple of years now. So all in all, I think that we will have better lien law with the passage of this bill. Current statutes require that all contracts in excess of \$15,000 awarded by a political subdivision of the state include requirements that the contractor provide and pay for the cost of surety payment bonds for 100 percent of the contract value. A payment bond ensures that all labor and material suppliers are compensated, since liens cannot be filed against government properties. As you may know, OPPD is building a new 600 megawatt power plant. The estimated cost of this project is \$800 million. And therefore, an \$800 million payment bond would be required. Because of certain circumstances, such as the collapse of Enron, the surety market has become strained, and sureties have become very cautious to whom they will provide bonds. In OPPD's situation,