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FLOOR DEBATE

May 20, 2003

LB 430, 720

CLERK: ...LB 430.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Excuse me. The motion was successful. LB 430 advances. And I do raise the call. Mr Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 720, a bill by Urban Affairs Committee. (Read title.) Introduced on January 22, referred to Urban Affairs, advanced to General File. At this time I have no amendments to the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hartnett, as Chairman of the committee, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 720.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, this bill was heard by the Urban Affairs Committee on March 4 of this year; advanced without a dissenting vote. And what it does, it changes transit authority laws in three major particular areas. First, it extends the territorial boundaries of a transit authority created by a metropolitan class city, Omaha being the only metropolitan class city. Under current law, the jurisdiction of such authority extends to all service transportation systems in such cities, without restricting the authority to provide service outside that area, and is coterminous with the boundaries of the city. Qualification for service on the transit board, residency in the metropolitan class city; and the manner of appointment, by the mayor with approval of the city council of the metropolitan class city; and the authority to seek property tax levy, are limited to these metropolitan boundaries. What the bill does is make changes. Would authorize the territory of the authority to extend over not just the city, but also over those areas served by the authority which may be located in the county in which the city is located, any other city or village located in the county, any adjacent county, or beyond those of the metropolitan class city would...or a city or village located in such adjacent county. The extension of such authority boundaries beyond those of the metropolitan class city would be subject to the consent of the governing board of those areas outside the metropolitan class city limits. Secondly, it would authorize authority to certify