

February 8, 1980

LB 629

the Call. Okay. You can wander around now. The Call is raised. We will go ahead then...Senator Koch, I don't believe is in the...Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: I will take the bill.

PRESIDENT: All right, you want to take 629?

SENATOR GEORGE: Yes.

PRESIDENT: All right, we will go ahead with 629 then.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 629 was introduced by Senator Koch. (Read title to LB 629.) The bill was read on January 9 of this year. It was referred to the Urban Affairs Committee. It was advanced to General File. There are no amendments pending, Mr. President.

SENATOR GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. President. LB 629 is a very simple bill. It simply reduces the minimum number of wards for a class one city from four to two. It does not mandate that, but any city and this especially is true for second class cities that have now grown to a population of 5,000 or over, they are kind of reluctant to change into class one cities because they don't like to change the ward system right away, into a minimum of four wards. So this is permissive legislation. It allows a class one city to be subdivided into two wards, or three or four, but we are just lowering the minimum from four to two, and I will move to advance LB 629 to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marvel.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I don't quite understand the purpose of the bill, Senator George. Maybe you could clarify it a little bit. We ordinarily have four wards, now this would reduce it to two wards. Is that right?

SENATOR GEORGE: Yes, Senator Marvel, if you want to.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is it permissive?

SENATOR GEORGE: Yes. It simply states here that the mayor and council shall divide the city into not less than two wards.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any particular reason behind all this?

SENATOR GEORGE: Yes, the reason is that we do have some