

SPEAKER MARVEL: Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 12 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The amendment is adopted. Before we go to the next items, in the North balcony it is my privilege to introduce 35 students and 15 adults from many areas of the state and Lyle Hermance and Doug Briggs are the adults who are in charge of the adults and the group is the vocational student organizations throughout the state and they are up in the North balcony. So we welcome you to the Unicameral Legislature. Senator Sieck, do you wish to explain your bill?

SENATOR SIECK: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman, members of this body. I am disappointed in what happened to the committee amendments but I am sure that the people out there will live with it and will do the utmost to accomplish what they are set out to do. Now from my personal research and analysis of the groundwater conservation districts plus my visits with county agents and NRD directors and various farmers and others close to the operation of the groundwater districts, I have discovered a very positive attitude toward the operation and successes of the districts. I have found that the districts are responsible for the monitoring of the irrigation runoff, studying of the nitrate levels, and many other water related practices but it is not the studies alone that make the districts profitable. It is the accomplishments of the districts through using advisory oriented and farmer member boards to enhance the communication of practical groundwater usage throughout the districts. For example, if excess runoff is discovered on the end of a farmer's field, one of the members of the groundwater district who will be a farmer will contact that owner of the field and educate him on how to prevent such losses. This practice is successful because it is farmers talking to farmers. I strongly support the groundwater districts for the above reasons alone. The districts have five board members each. Each implements a task force of twenty-five farmer board members to educate other farmers on water conservation. Taxation as cited in Section 46-631, groundwater districts may assess a tax of up to one mill of a dollar of the assessed value of all taxable real property within such district. Individual groundwater districts then earmark a certain amount of tax dollars for the support of the Blue River Association of Groundwater Districts. This district was created in 1959. The groundwater conservation districts have played a vital roll in water management. Currently, all six of the districts are within the Natural Resource District control areas, five of which are within