

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill corrects a couple of items that were originally in LB 2 and in our action of special session there was one thing that we did that was probably not in the best interest of people. First of all we said that you can initiate a petition by...put it in full force by the majority of those people who vote and in another section we said the only way you can remove it is if you have a majority of all registered voters. Now you know as well as I do that is almost impossible in this day and age even though we in this state and nation think a great deal of our democratic system. So one thing the bill does, it says when you go to repeal the issue if you so desire then it takes a majority of those voting to repeal it just like it does to put it into place. Another thing the bill does, it provides that when you initiate this that it will be done at least ninety days prior to the time of the official budget being adopted. The example would be in Omaha when that was carried out a couple of years ago, the school district had fourteen days in which to go through a considerable budget, make the necessary adjustments they had to make in order to comply with the diminished amount of revenue they were going to receive. Well, many of you served in local governments, either at county or city levels and you know as well as I do, fourteen days it is almost impossible to make a logical judgment on how you are going to reduce your budget. So we are saying in here, originally I had a hundred and twenty days, and the committee felt, saw fit to put it at ninety days and I will live with that. At least that gives you approximately three months to make the determination. Another thing it does, it provides to the local subdivision of elected officials annually to place it to a vote of the people if they so desire to review their decision. If they feel that it is still right they can vote to keep it in place or they can vote to repeal the issue, and the third thing it does and last thing is, it sunsets the limitation after two years and then the people have to go to the vote again to see whether or not they want to maintain that same limitation or make it more reasonable or more severe. That is the bill in its totality and, Mr. Speaker, I ask for the advancement of LB 17 as amended to E & R initial.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I voted for keeping the 7% figure the committee had initially attempted to amend into the bill. We did raise that to 10% but I do want to caution the legislators that when we consider the overall repeal of the local lid law that this bill will become an even more important element in the question of how do we limit local spending in a manner that is fair and equitable and I certainly believe that the reason I voted