

April 16, 1981

LB 266

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 266 was introduced by Senators Wesely and Vickers. (Read title.) The bill was first read on January 16. It was referred to Administrative Rules and Regulations. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Administrative Rules and Regulations Review Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, as you know, this bill's primary sponsor is Senator Don Wesely who does take advantage of certain movie offerings in town and three years ago saw the Towering Inferno five times in a row, and as a result of his view of the movie, he decided the State of Nebraska needed a high rise fire code, and as a result, he over a long period of time prepared and introduced LB 266. This bill came to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee. The committee held a public hearing and advanced the bill to the floor. It has several amendments which do the following: The first amendment, the first part of the committee amendments directs the State Fire Marshal to adopt a high rise fire code within six months from the time this bill passes, meaning simply that the committee felt that the Fire Marshal should take quick action now rather than to allow the matter to linger on and on and on. Secondly, the amendments make a definitional change to the buildings that will be covered by the high rise fire code and that was a suggestion given to us by one of the engineers that came in and testified on behalf of the bill. Third, the amendments make it quite clear that whatever high rise fire regulations the State Fire Marshal develops, he is to distinguish between new construction and existing construction. Under the bill as drafted the Fire Marshal was given the discretion to distinguish between new and existing construction but the committee thought that the Fire Marshal should be required to distinguish between new and existing construction with respect to the fire code. The bill eliminated references to elevators suitable for the handicapped. The committee amendments do that, I should say, and finally, one of the suggestions that had been made to the committee by several witnesses was that the State Fire Marshal in developing his high rise fire code rely on the standards set down by the Uniform Building Code, 1979 edition, so the final committee amendment or the final part of the committee amendment is to refer to the Uniform Building Code, 1979 edition, and requiring the State Fire Marshal in the development of the high rise fire code, and building code, to make sure that his regulations conform to the sections of the Uniform Building Code, and with that,