

the operating control of the State Electrical Board and the Director's actions and directions came from the State Electrical Board itself composed of seven members. Subsequent to that the Fire Marshal's Office in the State Office Building here became overcrowded and they moved the State Electrical Board out of his office and to another office, frankly it is up in Omaha, and the administrative function, oversight function is now cumbersome for both the Fire Marshal and the State Electrical Board. What it boils down to is they are operating separately now and the warrants and all of the minutes and stuff have to be signed by the Fire Marshal. He does not really participate in the meetings themselves. He does not have any reason, for example, for participating in other than the fact that the statute says that he shall sign the warrants, he shall sign the minutes and he shall do this and that. It takes time from his office. As I already stated, they had to move the Electrical Board out of his office to give him the room he needed to operate, and since they are doing it in this way, the way the bill is proposing to do it right now, I am asking for us to just statutorily formalize what is being done right now. It is for that reason that I would ask your advancement of the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support this bill. The Miscellaneous Subjects Committee did hold a hearing on it last year and we moved it out to the floor here on General File. I think that this bill, LB 490, would provide a more efficient administration of the State Electrical Division. There is no extra cost to the government. We are doing now what we are proposing to do in this bill. They are operating separately. The State Fire Marshal said it didn't make any difference to him and he would not oppose this particular bill. He would not oppose that what we are doing now. So I would strongly urge you to support this bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I oppose LB 490 and I ask you to oppose this bill as well. In a time of cutbacks, budget cuts, of budget restraints, we are talking about creating a new agency separate from the State Fire Marshal. At a time that the Governor's Task Force of reorganization is talking about reorganizing state government, bringing together functions, quit having these advocacy agencies all over the place in state government, we are trying to consolidate functions, bring agencies