

March 18, 1982

LB 726

second one is the reduction or loss of subirrigation within the district, trying to regulate, trying to allow the NRDs to regulate conflicts between subirrigated users of water who rely on subirrigation and other users of water. That is the main and basic thrust of the bill. Now subirrigation is not a term that we have had in the law before and, therefore, it became necessary to set forth what we mean by subirrigation and that is shown on page 5 of the bill. And for you people like myself who are city people, it might be well to read that. Subirrigation shall mean the irrigation of any type of plant or vegetation for agricultural purposes through the natural occurrence of the groundwater table within the root zone of such plants or vegetation. In other words, the groundwater level is so high that it soaks the roots of the plants that are being irrigated. Obviously, if somebody is pumping groundwater heavily in an area, there is the possibility that the groundwater level may decline, that meadows that have relied upon subirrigation for years and years and years may no longer be subirrigated and thereby the conflict is created that we in this bill would give the power to the NRDs to help negotiate and regulate. In addition, the bill has one additional provision which is really peripheral to the rest of the bill, but it simply allows the district to adopt controls on a township basis, that is, it can make controls more restrictive in one township than in another and this is done through the petition process and it would require the signature of 75 percent of the people residing in the township and those persons would have to own 75 percent of the property within the township in addition. That is a relatively minor point. But with that, Mr. Speaker, that explains the bill, what it does. I would move for the advancement of 726.

PRESIDENT: Ready for....motion on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kremer would move to amend the bill. Senator Kremer's amendment is found on page 1238 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask that we pass over that amendment for now. Leave it on file.

PRESIDENT: You want to leave it on file and pass over it.

SENATOR KREMER: Leave it on file but pass over it for now.