

March 19, 1982

LB 573

Clerk will read the amendment and then we will have a roll call vote on this amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the amendment is on page 1099 of the Legislative Journal. Do you want me to read it, Senator? (Read Wesely-Kremer amendment).

(Roll call vote.) 17 ayes, 21 nays, 5 present and not voting, and 6 excused and not voting. (Vote appears on pages 1317-18 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Any other amendments on LB 573?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, my amendment is fairly simple in concept and I am having copies of it reproduced which will be passed around to you very shortly, I hope. At any rate the concept is this. It says basically that the subscribers of any telephone company that is being deregulated by 573, if 51% of them petition to come back under the Public Service Commission they may do so simply by virtue of 51% of them signing a petition saying that they want to be regulated. LB 573 as you may recall is a very major deregulation bill and it deregulates most of the telephone companies in the state. It deregulates those basically with 5,000 subscribers or less. It is something that perhaps needs to be done. It does provide for a petitioning process for the subscribers to object to a rate increase in any one year, but it has no provision to allow for the petitioning back in under the Public Service Commission and that basically... I want to give another incentive to the telephone company to deal fairly and intelligently with the subscribers and that is the purpose of the amendment which I hope is acceptable to Senator Clark. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Do you have any further discussion on the Beutler amendment? Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: I will certainly accept this amendment. I think it is a very fair amendment. 51% is a lot of people to get and if 51% of the people do agree to that, I certainly agree to it. I'm not against the democratic process.