

was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The gentleman from the 42nd legislative district, Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I won't take much time. This bill was heard before the Natural Resources Committee. There was no opposition to it. This bill will not make a new law, in fact, it will take some of the existing laws off of the books so we will be helping along that matter. In essence, what we had is a few years ago you had fees established for intentionally stored water and also the incidentally stored underground water that has caused a lot of conflict, at least on the incidentally stored water. To this date, no requests have ever been made to levy fees by anyone. The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District passed a resolution themselves in favor of the resolution...or in favor of LB 45, so there is, in general, harmony to take away the fees but also eliminate much of the frustration felt by people that have had incidentally stored water. And that's exactly what this bill would do. It's 50 cents per acre and that would be removed. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the bill. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, although it sounds like everybody is pretty happy with this piece of legislation, I think it would be helpful for Senator Bernard-Stevens or Senator Schmit, probably more likely, since he was around when we passed this, but try and remember this was part of a fairly controversial bill and, remember, we had some battles over this and I guess I wonder what became of it. I'm trying to recall exactly the context in which this issue was debated. You have kind of said that there was this problem and now there's not a problem but could you give us a little more history on that? Because either from you or Senator Schmit, I recall this as being a little more significant issue than you have just portrayed it as, at the time it was passed.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, I would be glad to enlighten that a little bit. The McFarland bill we had the other day kind of scared me a little bit about taking too much time because you never know what's going to happen at some