

wholeheartedly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Crosby amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Crosby's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted. Now, Senator Crosby, back to your bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, LB 194 is for clarification purposes. The bill changes the section that enumerates the uses for which cities may spend available Business Improvement District funds. This change addresses some perceived problems about whether some specific uses are included in the general language of the section, for instance, the use of fund money for general promotion of retail activity and advocacy activity for these districts, or the use of fund money to provide for security measures in the improvement district. If you need further background to explain the need, the Downtown Lincoln Association is working with the city attorney to form a Business Improvement District in downtown Lincoln. This district would include development of a management program for downtown to assure the vitality of the area. This is based on the concept "why can't downtown manage themselves like shopping centers do?" Management is one of the soft programs allowed by the existing Nebraska legislation for BIDs. To date, the legislation has been used only for capital improvement programs, such as, Lincoln's beautification projects. It is innovative in Nebraska to consider funding in areas of management through the BID, but not in other cities in the United States. For instance, it has been successful in Seattle, Los Angeles, Tulsa and Richmond, Virginia. Our city attorney in Lincoln has asked for the clarification of the existing legislation in those areas. The ability to use these funds to provide security personnel, if appropriate, to promote the retail area, as a whole, and to be an advocate, such as, to advocate activity for downtown housing. The Urban Affairs Committee voted unanimously to advance it after their hearing to General File and there was no opposition or neutral testimony. In speaking with the Nebraska League of Municipalities and the City of Omaha, they have no problems with this bill. I urge you to vote in favor of LB 194. The only