

Bernard-Stevens. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 19, referred to the Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Revenue Committee, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Before we start this, may I introduce some guests, please. Senator Lowell Johnson has some guests in the south balcony. We have 33 fourth graders from Grant Elementary School in Fremont, Nebraska and their teacher. Would you please welcome them. And would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Hefner has some guests in the north balcony of 18 seniors from Coleridge High School and teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thanks to you all of you for being here today. Senator Hall, are you going to handle the committee amendments, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, LB 643 is introduced by Senator Bernard-Stevens. It's a bill that deals with the railroad tax loss issue and it, basically, strikes LB 1165 that was introduced and passed last year and changes the manner in which that is dealt with. The committee amendments are strictly and only the emergency clause that would have...it would take effect in a timely manner so that the budgeting process for those subdivisions of government could be completed in time. All we add is the E clause. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further discussion? If not, the question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the Revenue Committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Bernard-Stevens, please, on the bill.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I will take just a brief moment to review what happened last year and then, hopefully, we will get to a vote on the bill and we'll move it on its way. It is a relatively noncontroversial bill even though it is a priority that I have chosen and the reason it is a priority is because of the railroad lawsuit and the continuing lawsuits we have and the continuing problems that municipalities and subdivisions have in