

March 30, 1989

LB 228A, 627

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 228A was introduced by Senator McFarland. (Title read.)

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: This is a \$5,000 A bill. The need and justification for it is that there will be a new...forms for reporting financial data will have to be changed to provide for this column so the forms will have to be reprinted. I would urge you to accept the A bill.

SENATOR LANDIS: No lights. A waiving of closing, Senator Withem? Those in favor of 228A vote aye, those opposed vote no. The Clerk will record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the A bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. Move on to LB 627 by Senator Kristensen. Mr. Clerk, the history of the bill, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, 627 was introduced by Senator Kristensen. (Title read.) The bill was read for the first time on January 19, was referred to Judiciary Committee. That committee does report the bill to General File.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Kristensen, to open.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members, LB 627 deals with public defenders. The way the system is in the State of Nebraska right now is that if a county contracts and hires a public defender at the next election, that office shall not become appointed, but shall become an elected position. In many of our smaller counties we're going to public defender systems. The trouble is that it's very difficult to find good and qualified people to be public defenders. One is it doesn't pay very well, but, two, it's not a very popular or glamorous job because oftentimes in small counties they defend people who are not exactly the favorites of the community and the problem that we've run into is in these smaller counties we can't always find someone in the county to run for public defender, and once you've created the position, there is not a statutory language that would allow them to appoint an out-of-county attorney to serve as a public defender and, thus, we're stuck with no public defenders. This bill would merely allow that someone, a