

April 3, 1989

LB 89, 95, 247, 588, 762
LR 2, 69

SENATOR LANDIS: I will take just another 30 seconds to complete the answer to Senator Hannibal's question. We do not now have the staff at the state level to be able to do analysis on natural gas regulation. We would have to go out and hire that. The methodology that we have for cities to go out and control natural gas rates is for them to band together and get a consultant for a limited period of time to examine each rate increase by a utility. When they're not faced with that, the staff is not permanent. They've just hired a consultant. If the state is in this business, we'll likely either have to gear up and bring staff in or, in the alternative, we'll have to duplicate the very authority that the cities have which is to use a limited amount of service on an as needed basis by going out into the marketplace and hiring consultants. The former, I think, is far too expensive for its utilization pattern and the second is basically duplicative of existing mechanisms. That's why I think city regulation makes sense. I support LB 95 and urge you to do as well.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Shall LB 95 be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the advancement of the bill. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 95.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 95 is advanced. Anything for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, new resolution, LR 69, offered by Senator Pirsch. (Read brief description of the resolution. See pages 1447-48 of the Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over.

Amendments to be printed from Senators Withem to LB 588; Senator Lynch to LB 89; Senator Moore to LB 89; Senator Withem to LB 247, and amendments to LR 2, Mr. President. (See pages 1448-56 of the Legislative Journal.) And that is all that I have.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. To LB 762.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 762 was a bill introduced by the Revenue Committee. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 19 and referred to the Revenue Committee for public