

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, the bill would amend several sections of statute within the general sections dealing with local city and county museums, Sections 51-501 and Section 51-513. This portion of statute was first adopted by the Nebraska Legislature in 1957. This bill, LB 444, would relate directly to the situation of a city contracting for the use of existing museum and would propose to eliminate the ambiguity in statute with regard to that situation. It was introduced specifically to address the situation of the City of Omaha and the Western Heritage Museum. The bill provides that the city which proposes to contract for the use of a museum already established shall not be required to hold an election for public approval of the right to contract for the use of the museum. The city council or village would serve as a museum board. This bill also exempts public museum property from execution and taxation in the same manner as other public property. And as I said, it simply deals with one situation. It kind of clears up some vague language and it simply allows a city, in the case of Omaha, for a special taxing authority if the city council in Omaha wants to use it, and that's really what the bill does and it deals with one specific thing, the Western Heritage Museum. With that, if there is any questions, I would ask for the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? If not, those in favor of the advancement of LB 444 to E & R please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

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

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 444 is advanced. LB 162.

CLERK: LB 162, Mr. President, was introduced by Senator Rod Johnson. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 5, referred to Agriculture, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I bring you, this afternoon, LB 162 which asks the state to provide financial funding for a program that has had a history in this state for a long time. It was actually adopted by the state and funded by