

open meetings laws. The actual language used is instrumentalities exercising essential public functions. We have, as a Legislature, declared that NIFA has been granted the authority to sell tax exempt bonds for public purposes, and, again, I am not sure there is adequate oversight on the activities of NIFA. They are required to file with the Clerk of the Legislature a copy of each annual report, and this is simply a measure to place some oversight and accountability to the public and the Legislature. There are some other concerns that I have that, since we are getting to lunchtime, that I don't know that I will raise right now, unless anybody wants to specifically question the wisdom of doing this, at this time. There will be some other entities affected by this, specifically, the Nebraska Conservation Corporation, the Small Business Development Authority, Research Development Authority, Branch Rail Revitalization Council, and Nebraska Educational Facilities Authority, and many of these entities have been granted the power and authority to issue bonds to expend and borrow money, and, again, I think it is appropriate that we, as a Legislature, carry out our legislative oversight functions, and are clear about what is happening out there in some of these, what are, quasi-governmental entities. And so that is the rationale for the amendment. It simply means that NIFA has to comply with open meetings laws and there have been some questions in terms of, it seems to me that there have been some emergency situations declared that may be entirely appropriate but, again, I wouldn't want to have things get too far afield from complying with that open meetings law. That is the rationale of the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any discussion? Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: We have checked with the other affected groups. They, too, are willing to be under the open meetings law. This is entirely satisfactory.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is, then, the adoption of the Scofield amendment. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

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

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted.