

the amount of compensation that the Board of Directors currently receive which is \$200 a month to \$500 and for the Chairman of the Board to \$600. Currently, the Chairman receives 250. The increase, I think, is justified in that it has not been increased since 1972, for 17 years. This is a board of five that is appointed by the Mayor of Omaha. They are responsible for a budget of nearly \$20 million. They have a number of employees. They serve over 20,000 customers a day with regard to the number of riders in the metro area and their responsibilities with regard to the operation of the transit authority are numerous, as well as the liability that is involved with any operation of this nature. So the compensation question whether or not it is justified, I don't think can be raised but it is an issue that I think should be addressed and I would appreciate support, first of suspending the rules in order to allow the amendment to be considered, and then of adopting the amendment to LB 309. And I use LB 309 as a vehicle because it deals with the issue of salaries for state employees. I would urge the body to first suspend the rules, Mr. Clerk...Mr. President, so that we could consider the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The motion is to suspend the germaneness rule in order to take up the amendment by Senator Hall. The first speaker is Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have no objection to the amendment. I think I have a bill somewhere that was also a potential vehicle but will not be gotten to this year. But I am wondering, Senator Hall, I have here a motion to add the severability clause because, obviously, the suspension of the rules takes care of our germaneness issue, but there are some things in 309 that are exceedingly important for the state pay system and if some citizen objected to this pay raise and filed a suit, I wouldn't want that part to be jeopardized. I assume you would have no problem with adding the severability clause.

SENATOR HALL: Absolutely none at all, Senator Warner. And the raise would be...it's an up to issue. They would have to do it at their meeting and I don't have any problem at all.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Just briefly, I would...Mr. Speaker and