

changes, but we do need some appropriation to go along with it, so I'd urge you to advance the A bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the advancement of the bill to E & R initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 259A.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. We'll move on to LB 747 on General File.

CLERK: Mr. President, one quick announcement. Reference Committee will meet in Room 2102 right now for referencing. Reference Committee in Room 2102 for referencing.

Mr. President, LB 747 was a bill that was introduced originally by Senators Chizek, Withem, Hartnett, Ashford, Abboud and Robak. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 19 of last year. At that time, it was referred to the Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Revenue Committee, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall, are you going to take those amendments?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, as the Clerk has spelled out for you, LB 747 was introduced by Senator Chizek and others that dealt with putting in place a homestead exemption provision. If you remember back to last year, it was one of a trilogy of bills that was advanced out of the Revenue Committee that offered different options to deal with the issue of property tax relief that was one hotly debated last year and is still on the top of the issues list for this year. The proposal, as it was introduced, would allow for a homestead exemption for an owner-occupied home...owner-occupied is important to remember, of \$3,000. In other words, valuation would be made, the first \$3,000 would be stripped off or that value taken away. The cost would be picked up by the state, similar to the homestead provision that was included in LB 84 that was ultimately passed last year. The committee amendments do this. They double that amount, that's all they do. If you will look at the bill itself, it's very easy to read because the bill is basically on page 2 of the green copy. If you look at