

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 503 was introduced by Senator Goodrich. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 18 of last year. It was referred to the Government Committee. They report that bill to General File with committee amendments, Mr. President. (See page 1194 of the Legislative Journal, First Session.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you handle the committee amendments, please, on 503?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to. The committee amendments, first of all, to give the body a brief history of the bill, it was presented to the Government Committee last session, and to be quite honest with you, the Government Committee felt that there wasn't a lot of thought, forethought into particular salaries and the levels that were set. The committee certainly did not agree that we needed to make an adjustment, there should be an adjustment, but we wanted a little bit more thought behind the particular adjustments being made. So the committee killed the bill originally with the idea that we needed to come back...the committee was not going to sit and rewrite pieces of legislation, we had other things we had to do, but if there was a rethinking and they came before the committee again, we would certainly look at it, and we did so. So 503 was resurrected and the committee amendments that you have before you are what the committee felt to be a solid proposal to bring before the body. In essence, the salaries are set as you see in the handout in front of you, but I will tell you that, basically, we have taken the midrange of most of the salaries that our surrounding states from Nebraska, with the exclusion of Illinois, and Illinois, quite honestly, is far, far beyond any state in what they pay their constitutional officers, and simply was out of the question and threw everything out of balance, so Illinois was not included in that. So I can't tell you that it takes the midrange, in fact, it is actually a little bit below the midrange. In a handout that hopefully that you may have, for the example, the Governor, will be no change in the 65,000 that is proposed in the bill. Lieutenant Governor, it would be 47,000, the original bill had 50,000. So we have reduced that a tad bit and I know some of the candidates...some of the, excuse me, senators in here that are considering Lieutenant Governor may be a little nervous about that, but we felt 47,000 to be adequate for the position. And we move on down to where you can see the adjustments from what was in 503, which would be about a