

SENATOR WEIHING: Yes, the amendment to which the Clerk spoke is on page 272 of the Journal. This is an amendment that simply is correcting what is already in the Journal. If you turned within the bill on page 2 in line 5, you will see the statement "public power district, public power and irrigation district." The bill will be authorizing various areas of government for refunding bond, to be able to have refunding bonds. The public power districts already, already have that power. This is already in the statutes. Therefore, the language is redundant and this amendment simply takes out that language "public power district, public power and irrigation district" so we do not have duplication within the statutes. I request that we move ahead and vote on that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Is there discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Weihing? If not, those in favor of its adoption please vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the Weihing amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted. Anything further, Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Nothing further on the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Weihing, would you care to explain the bill as amended.

SENATOR WEIHING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, Section 10-142 currently authorizes counties, cities, and villages to issue refunding bonds. Now refunding bonds are utilized when bonds have been issued at a high interest level. If you recall, ten years ago interest rates were up around 10 percent, or perhaps even higher, with regards to bonds. Then interest rates dropped. When bonds have been issued for a period of years, let us take an example, just 12 years, and there is a significant drop in the interest rate, it is certainly desirable if those bonds can be paid off to that particular point in time, say five years, and then reissued at a lower rate. This technique has been used and used very successfully with the counties, cities, and villages.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Weihing, excuse me. (Gavel.) Go ahead.