

January 25, 1991 LB 59

CLERK: Madam President, the next bill for consideration this morning is LB 59. It is a bill introduced by Senators Withem, Beyer and Hartnett. (Read title.) It was introduced on January 10 of this year, referred to the Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I'll recognize Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the body, I stand to introduce LB 59 to you. Some people were marveling, I think, at the ability of the NSEA to have a bill, LB 89 sponsored in 1989 and this year LB 91 sponsored in 1991. We, in Sarpy County, did not want to be outdone by that. You notice the three Sarpy County senators are sponsoring a bill that affects only Sarpy County and we have LB 59, which is the number of Sarpy County on the license plate, so we just wanted to show them that they are not the only ones that can do this. LB 59 is a fairly simple bill dealing with distress warrants. Distress warrants are those orders that are handled by the sheriff's office to collect unpaid personal property taxes, just personal, not real property. In Douglas County it has been possible for them to have a two-year cycle to collect those. In all other counties in the state it is a nine-month time period. Lancaster County, because they are now over the 200,000 population, will be able to have the two years. What this bill does is it requests that that threshold be lowered to 100,000 so that the folks in Sarpy County who have an inordinate number of these, I think they said at the hearing that there is something like 600 of these warrants last year, and they only have a nine-month period. They can't work with the businesses to get the taxes paid on time. They cannot...they have to, if they don't get them collected, have to wait three months and then have them issued again and it's just kind of a hassle. It would be much easier for them to be able to work the full calendar year and also have a little longer to collect these so that they could work with businesses and do a better job of collecting them. That is simply what the bill does. I would ask your support. I'll answer any questions that you may have.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend the bill. (Bernard-Stevens amendment appears on