

March 1, 1991

LB 393, 488

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair and members of the body, LB 488 is a bill that impacts upon the Class V school district in the state, the Omaha Public School system, dealing with the question of conflict of interest. Back in 1986, Senator Landis sponsored a bill that was an excellent piece of legislation that took the various conflict of interest statutes that existed in statute at that time. One place there were those relating to cities, another place there were those relating to counties, another relating to school districts, other subdivisions, brought those all together into one particular statute in LB 548 so that there would be one standard conflict of interest measure in the statutes. The bill drafters office, certainly wouldn't have been Senator Landis, but the bill drafters office or other people missed the reference to a specific conflict of interest statute that related to the Omaha Public School system. What this bill does is it repeals that rather ancient...we looked back in bill history trying to find when that conflict of interest statute passed and we were back as far as 1949, couldn't find it as anything new at that time, so it has existed for quite some time. It would repeal that and make the Omaha Public School system fall under the same types of conflict of interest statutes that all other subdivisions in the state deal with. What is that conflict of interest provision? It is that if an individual, on a board, school board, county, city, other governing body, has a conflict, a financial conflict, what they will have to do is they will have to refrain...file a statement that they have a conflict, and then refrain from voting on that issue. What the Omaha standard says literally is that they can't have any financial dealings with the school district and that is not the case in any other school district or any other subdivision in the state. So what this bill does is it makes the...will make the Omaha School Board's conflict of interest statutes the same as those for everyone else in the State of Nebraska. If you have any questions, I would respond.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Seeing no one wishing to debate the issue, we will proceed to vote on the advancement of LB 488. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 488.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 488 is advanced. LB 393.