

specific, a date certain, in the bill when the Whitney exemption will come to an end. In the meantime, however, it does provide for some rules and regs to be developed by DEC on closure of landfills, as well as require that communities that are operating landfills must come up with a plan as to how they are going to address their solid waste problems in their community, whether it be the closing of their facility and going to a regional or county approach, or whether it be to bring their landfill up to standard, which is a concept that some may want to do. Or, third, they may want to contract with a private operator to handle their solid waste but it gives them those options. And I guess as I have argued from the first day that we brought this bill up on the floor was that we needed some mechanism to bring those 225 communities operating landfills without licensure to the table. And this date, hopefully, will let us address that. It has been mentioned and it has been asked of me, what is the EPA going to be doing? We don't know. Unfortunately, they have been telling us they are going to come down with Subtitle D requirements for closure as well as for licensure of landfills in Nebraska, as well as the other landfills across the country, but when that date comes, we don't know. And so, quite frankly, closure or licensure of landfills in this state will come either by the hand of EPA or the hand of this Legislature, and I guess I am of the attitude that let's take responsibility of our own waste problems and start the process of bringing these communities into compliance, and this date will help bring us...hopefully, bring some of those parties to the table. There are like four legislative sessions that will meet in this body between now and the date in this bill that we could address, extend the deadline, whatever, so I think there is plenty of time for us to address whatever problems we see, but we are giving them, at least, advance notice that the Whitney exemption will come to an end and, hopefully, this is a realistic time line that many of our smaller communities can meet at an appropriate date. So I would move the amendments to the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. We will now proceed to vote on the Johnson amendment to LB 67. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Johnson's amendment to the bill.