

that they are not then to be liable for a leaking tank, that the fund will actually help pick up the cost of cleaning up that environmental release problem. So I consented to offer the amendment, which I do now, and would ask the body's indulgence to adopt this amendment.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: Is there further discussion? Seeing none, the motion is the adoption of Senator Johnson's amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Johnson's amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Motion carried. The bill is adopted. Senator Rod Johnson has 28 eighth through twelfth graders from Clarks School, Clarks, Nebraska in the south balcony together with their teachers. If the group would please stand, so the Legislature could recognize you. Thank you. Is there further motions on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend. Senator, I have AM1255 in front of me. (See pages 1642-43 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the amendment will be passed out to you in just one second, but let me give you the basic concept. Basically, I am back to the topic that I was on before and I wanted to approach it in a different way to see if it would meet with your approval, and that topic is the subject of getting the fund back, eventually, to a private, a private insurance situation, in other words, over a period of the next 20 years, moving the fund from a social insurance program to a private insurance program. And I think the one way that you can do this economically or financially is to provide that each year the premium, in effect, that is paid by the operators increase by 5 percent, so that, by the year 2010, the premium that is being paid by the operator would, essentially, be somewhat near the premium that would be charged by private insurance. So what this bill says is that each year...what this amendment says is that each year, the