

February 19, 1992 LB 1008

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. I'll recognize Senator Horgan for opening on the bill itself.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President, and members, LB 1008 is a piece of legislation that would allow the City of Omaha the authority and only the authority to charge fees for the collection, disposal and recycling of garbage and refuse. It will also authorize the metropolitan utilities district to enter into a contract with the City of Omaha for the billing of the fees and to enforce...but not to enforce their collection. The bill, as now amended, also requires that the fee not be a revenue enhancement for the city but actually be designated into a garbage collection account, and also it protects the citizens if there is a need for this fee and the City Council does implement it and the MUD puts it on their billing system and you don't make a payment for the garbage collection fee you cannot lose the right to your water. The important thing to recognize about this bill is it's enabling legislation. It does not mandate the city to do anything but it allows the city to do what...what most cities and towns around the state already are doing and that is to collect a fee for the collection of garbage and refuse in the City of Omaha. We, as a body, are not saying that we think it's necessary to do or what that amount should be or that the city should do it or when they should do it, but with a number of legislative issues currently before us that look to implement a lid on local government spending, I think the city is looking prospectively to the future and saying, we may need some additional flexibility in our financing and we, in the past, the City of Omaha has paid for garbage out of the property tax base and that base is shrinking and is being..and is being hit upon tightly and local city government budgets are very tight and so this would allow the city greater flexibility and opportunities to implement this fee if the City Council approves it and if the Mayor were to sign it into law. It simply gives in statutes the city the authority that other cities and metropolitan areas in the State of Nebraska have already and I would ask for your support of the legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Morrissey, Hefner and Hartnett. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Madam President and members of the body, I