

April 9, 1992

LB 1134, 1240

by Senator Conway. Senator, AM4093. (See page 2023 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. AM4093, in essence, like what much of what we are talking about today, was another bill. It was heard in the Government Committee. What the bill number was was LB 1134. LB 1134 is a bill that was designed to provide for rural development, if you will, in that the concept as we have in the past allowed cities and counties to engage in bonding for the purposes of nursing homes, hospitals, other types of facilities of that nature. And what we found in many of the small communities across Nebraska, where people want to stay and maintain their residence in those small communities, is that there is a housing shortage, if you will, particularly for the type of housing that may be necessary for their specific needs in the rural communities. And the concept of this particular bill was to provide for the cities or counties, if they so desire, to offer bonds after a vote of the people. It would be following the normal process of any other bonding procedure in terms of the majority vote of the people. But following the vote of the people, they may desire to take the standards by which they ordinarily would float bonds to do these other types of programs and build a multihousing unit for the benefit of that community. What you would find with this particular situation would be a time, in many cases, where some of our senior citizens may be in a position where their current house in that community is not accommodating. They may have some special needs. They may have developed various handicaps, and in order to be accommodated and stay in that community, their existing house would not suffice, and so we find many of these senior citizens having to be moved from their original communities and move elsewhere into the city or some other place that can accommodate them, even though they are still independent livers. So the concept behind this is if a community so desires, they may use that bonding mechanism to provide for housing in their community, as well as nursing homes or hospitals or other kinds of facilities that are now approved under the law. Economic development or rural development I think has really been the name of the game here. We have situations where, if, in fact, that community wants to make that type of a commitment for housing, they may do so under this particular provision. So, in essence, it is only adding to the list of things that may be bonded, that being a housing project.