

recognized to open on your bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, a few weeks ago I went to the lobbyist for the City of Lincoln and I said, John, I want to ask not what the city can do for me but what can I do for the city. And, believe it or not, John had some ideas about that. And I picked up on one of his better ideas and am happily presenting to you today a small bill on behalf of the City of Lincoln. It has to do with railroad transportation safety districts and there's only one of those in the entire State of Nebraska and it is a district that has been formed by the County of Lancaster in the City of Lincoln, back in the early 1970s. And the law itself with relating to this kind of a district applies only to primary class cities which the City of Lincoln is the only one, but it does also apply to cities of the first class should they care to avail themselves of the ability to cooperate with their counties in forming this kind of a district. The district has a very limited purpose. It's limited purpose is to basically take care of the building of overpasses over railroad crossings. And what happens is the county and the city gets together, the district has a small tax levy, they levy a tax and they take the money to improve railroad overpasses and railroad improvements as they relate to streets on and about Lincoln and the County of Lancaster. But there is a provision in the law that says, after 26 years, this district will go out of existence. I don't know the history. It's lost in the mist of time as to why that limitation was put on, but the County of Lancaster and the City of Lincoln have found it a very useful kind of joint action and they've worked it out over the years so it works as slick as you can imagine. They like the way it works. There are other ways you can cooperate but they've been doing this for a large number of years and it works well for them, and they would like to continue to do it. And so, essentially, all this bill does is eliminate the provision that says that...that sunsets railroad transportation safety districts and allows them to continue to operate in the manner that they historically have with regard to solving the problem of overpasses over railroads. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Any discussion on LB 80? Seeing none, Senator Beutler, do you have a closing? Closing has been waived. The question is the advancement of LB 80. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.