

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, Senator Hall, if I could ask you a few questions.

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR WITEK: I've gotten quite a few calls on this backflow prevention device change. I've gone to Senator Hartnett's office and mostly the answer I have gotten was that it was federal law. So this is the first I have heard that it's state law. I guess my concern is, first of all, this bill was just for primary class until this amendment, correct?

SENATOR HALL: No...

SENATOR WITEK: Okay.

SENATOR HALL: ...the bill that was passed, Senator Witek was LB 121 in 1993 and I believe it went through Senator Hartnett's committee and it was an omnibus bill dealing with this area. The backflow prevention device is worth something that I think started with a federal law as you suggest, but it was enacted as a state provision a couple of years ago.

SENATOR WITEK: Okay, but LB 36 was just...it says licenses in primary class cities.

SENATOR HALL: That's correct. This amendment goes into Section 18-1917 whereas I think the bill as it is currently drafted deals with 1901 and 1907.

SENATOR WITEK: So nobody in Omaha would even be aware that we would be attaching an amendment to something that was from a primary class city. They probably wouldn't even have paid much attention to this bill.

SENATOR HALL: No, this came from the, I think they would know. This issue has been discussed in front of the plumbers board. The problem is is that there was no...there was really nothing that they could do because of the change that we made. The plumbers understood that it was a steamfitters work in the past, but based on the law and the change with regard to the city