

LB 334.

SENATOR HALL: LB 334 is advanced. I would like to try to get one more bill done this morning, if we could, before we adjourn. Mr. Clerk, the next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 94 introduced by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5, referred to Natural Resources, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Bromm, to open on the bill.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. LB 94 I introduced on behalf of the Water Resources Department, the Department of Water Resources, I should say, to correct or change an antiquated statute which simply said that all surface water appropriators had to install an approved recording gauge to record the amount of water used on every canal or ditch across the state. Now, very few people realized the statute was there until a problem arose during the last year or so when a couple of landowners started requiring a few individuals to install gauges and the Department of Water Resources discovered, yes, in fact, this statute does exist and has not been followed or heeded or known about to any extent at all. So they proposed and the Natural Resources Committee reported out with no dissenting votes that we change the statute to read that the department, referring to the Department of Water Resources, may require the owner or controller of a canal or ditch to install an approved recording gauge at one or more specific locations. So we're changing it so that the Department of Water Resources can require such a gauge any time that the situation would merit it, but it takes off the books a law which has been ignored and unknown which would require such a gauge on every canal or ditch across the state where there's a surface water appropriator. Gauges can range in cost from a couple hundred dollars to several thousand dollars, depending upon the stream or canal or sophistication of the gauge, so it can be quite costly. It's a law that we just think needs to be corrected, brought up to date, and I would entertain any questions. I will be very brief since Senator Pedersen said he was quite hungry and I don't want to make him angry on my bill. So, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Is there any