

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question now before the body is the advancement of LB 90. Is there any discussion? Oh, Senator Bromm, I'm sorry, I understand you have not opened yet on your bill. Would you like to do so?

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be very, very brief. I think we have discussed the bill to a large extent while we were looking and considering the committee amendments. The bill was intended originally to eliminate the possibility of a jury trial where someone is charged with basically a petty offense, offenses for which really there is no imprisonment possibility. The thing that is thrown out most frequently in our discussion is littering but there are...I have about three pages of offenses that would fall into the same category for which, under state law, there is no possibility of imprisonment under the penalty section but yet, technically, under the state of...the interpretation of the law in Nebraska, they could still request a jury trial. The jury trial, even in county court, in my experience, takes a day and lots of times a day and a half. You pick the jury, you have the cost of paying the mileage for the jurors to come in. You tie up the court a significant amount of time, and if you multiply that over the state, it eventually results in the need for more judges, more courts. So there is some fiscal consideration in why I originally brought the bill. Now the amendment, as it stands right now, extends the change in law to allow a person charged with a city or village ordinance, if they're charged with substantially the same crime as a state law would charge them with, and if the city or village ordinance carries any imprisonment with it, then they could request a jury trial under that particular charge of city or village ordinance. So that's the state of the bill now. It would be my intention to vote to advance the bill to Select File. But, as I indicated to Senator Lindsay in discussing the amendment, I would like an opportunity to discuss with him and Senator Chambers, anyone else that's interested, and the cities and villages, between now and Select File, as to how the amendment impacts them and try to get a handle on that. Since we really didn't have public hearing on the amendment, we really didn't have a lot of time to look at it except for today, I think that would be fair. But, knowing the state of the legislators' legislative calendar and the inability probably to get back to General File and vote on a bill like this again, which I doubt that, Mr. Speaker, you could assure me that we could do that, I would like to advance the bill and continue to discuss it in the meantime. So that will constitute my opening