

April 13, 1995

LB 397, 572

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Is there anyone who would care to speak to the motion to advance? Seeing none, Senator Lindsay waives closing. The question is the advancement to E & R Initial of LB 397. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 397.

SENATOR HALL: LB 397 is advanced. Before we move to the next bill I'd like to announce that Senator Wehrbein has guests in the north balcony, 31 fourth graders and their escort from Weeping Water School in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Would you please rise and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for joining us today. Mr. Clerk, LB 572.

CLERK: LB 572 offered by Senator Chambers. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 18, referred to the Government Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Chambers, to open on the bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this bill is being offered by me in concert with Senators Brown and Schrock and it is brought to you because in December of last year for some reason, the auditor gave notice to the public housing authorities that their budgets would have to be filed with his office and he said that because of a way he had interpreted the statute, Section 71-1503, subsection (3) and these authorities, about 150 of them are represented in an organization called the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. They were all distressed because, and I've given you letters containing the rationale for this bill. It's an additional layer of bureaucracy. It is placing a responsibility and a requirement on them which was never envisioned when the Nebraska Budget Act was put in place. These authorities get no state funds whatsoever. Their budgets have to be approved and scrutinized by their individual boards and commissions as well as the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The letters go into detail about how some of these authorities consist of just two people and the additional work in doing what the auditor would require, is burdensome, impractical and unreasonable. And as the president of the organization wrote, it wouldn't be...I was trying to get her