

committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. Is there any further discussion on LB 205? Senator Janssen, to open on the bill. I raise the call.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Members, I'll...I'll be very quick. We only have a little bit of time left on this bill. LB 205 is designed to reduce the number of financial costs in examinations currently required for fire protection districts by further defining duties statutorily delegated to the Auditor of Public Accounts. Currently, Section 84-304 provides for an audit of political subdivisions at such time as the auditor shall determine. The rules and regulations governing the audit procedures on several political subdivisions could make more absolute the requirement that all fire protection districts be audited annually regardless of total annual expenditures of the fire district. We are, I am going to cut this a little bit short. Only after written request by the public...political subdivisions could the annual audit requirement be waived or amended. I realize and appreciate the fact that the waiver requests have generally been granted by the current auditor. My concern, however that with an administration change new regulations are drafted and implemented, the audit requirements could once again become very burdensome. I believe a statutory change is appropriate to alleviate this possibility. And I feel as though there may be some departments out there throughout the state where they may have some problems, but you have to realize, folks that these are public servants that serve on these fire protection boards. They are accountable to the voters in that district, and with the lids that are being imposed on public subdivisions right now, or political subdivisions, this is going to be more of a burdensome requirement by them. They are going to have to watch every dollar they can, and one of those dollars is on audits. So without any further adieu, I just would like and appreciate your support on moving this onto Select File, if you so choose to. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President and friends all. Senator Janssen, I am a little nervous on this, and not intending to kill your bill, but at the same time, it seems like we are talking about public funds and many of these funds for