

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Robinson, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, LB 567 is a bill that will authorize the Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee to grant utility easements on state-owned land. The committee amendment was requested by the Building Division, is intended to make it clear that the Department of Roads is not to be included in the provisions of LB 567. It was never the intention to include land or right-of-way property for which the Department of Roads is responsible and the committee amendment makes sure this is the case. I would urge the adoption of the amendment. I'd like to tell you who the Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee is composed of. It is composed of Larry Primeau of DAS, Ralph Newell, the administrator of the 309 Task Force which is the committee that Senator Lynch chairs, and Ken Fougeron, the Building Division Administrator, and also would include the person of the agency that they would be talking about as far as the utility easement is concerned. With that, I would urge the adoption of the amendment to LB 567.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Any discussion on the committee amendments? There appear to be none. Senator Robinson, would you like to close? Closing is waived. The question is the adoption of the Government Committee amendments to LB 567. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The amendments are adopted. Senator Robinson, on your bill.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, 567 will authorize the Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee to grant utility easements on state-owned lands. It is intended to clarify which branch of government is responsible for granting such easements and to make the process more efficient. Though there is no statutory requirements for the Legislature to grant such easements, it has been customary to obtain legislative approval before allowing such easements on state-owned land. LB 567 would end this traditional practice and make the process more efficient by authorizing the Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee to grant this kind of easement by a majority vote of its members. Such easements may be granted only to political