

pending. The bill was discussed by the Legislature on April 13. Committee amendments are pending, Senator.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam Chairman, members of the body, LB 469 deals with the Municipal and Natural Gas Regulation Acts which passed a few years ago. And what the bill does, I'll explain the bill and then I'll talk about the amendments and so forth. The bill provides that when two or more rate areas considering rate changes at the same time involving the same utility and the same basic, one consolidated hearing at one site may be held at a rate areas by means of videoconference, remote participation site in each of the rate areas. In other words, there would be a videoconference at one site and then there would be also people meeting at another site. So it deals with allowing videoconference to be used with rate hearings. The other...one amendment deals with, provides notification, mailed notice in customers' bills or by separate cover of the time, date and place of the hearing, its purpose and right of individual customer to participate in the hearing in each affected ratepayer at least 20 days prior to the hearing. The amendment also requires that the hearing date be set early enough to enable the utility to place a notice in the last billing before the hearing, simply that we have notice to all the people that will be affected by the rate changes of natural gas. The third section, amendment requires that the terms of the agreement presented at a full hearing to be made part of a formal record of hearing to ensure that the public is fully informed of what agreed on to and can assess the impact. Also it specifies that any customer who is present at a hearing must be provided a full and complete opportunity to appear and present testimony on terms of the agreement. In other words, if there's a negotiated agreement ahead of time that everybody is notified, it's not just put on the shelf by somebody. So I'd like to ask these two amendments be accepted and the advancement of the bill. I'd entertain any questions.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator, when the Legislature left this bill last April, you had filed a motion to reconsider.

SENATOR HARTNETT: I want to withdraw that.