

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, as Senator Wickersham will explain, this bill makes certain changes to the Nebraska Disaster and Civil Defense Act. The committee amendment will make a couple of somewhat minor changes intended to clarify the bill. The term "principal executive officer" is used in this act, and the committee felt that it should be defined, thus the amendment defines a "principal executive officer" as a mayor in cities of all classes, or the elected chairperson of the governing body of a village or county. The second change that the committee suggests is to insert language that allow a local emergency to be declared by the principal executive officer of a local government, or by another person who, by resolution, has been authorized to make such a declaration by the local governing board. A copy of the resolution must be filed with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. This is done to cover the situation where the principal executive officer may not be available in the case of an emergency. In this case, another person who has been designated by the governing board may declare an emergency, and the people at the state level will know that that person has been authorized to do so because the resolution so designating them will be on file. This came through the NRD in the Omaha area, basically has to do with floods where they might have to dynamite the river and so forth. But that's where the amendment come, and I would urge the adoption of the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Beutler, to speak to the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator (sic) Robak, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to throw out four or five ideas. I indicated to Senator Wickersham that I really didn't think this was a consent type bill, being 91 pages or so in all. But on the other hand, it's such a nice piece of work I would certainly not be one to want to hold it up. I wanted to just mention four or five things that I think are worth looking at in this bill and that probably everybody should look at before Select File. And also, in doing this, ask Senator Wickersham to respond to these particular items. On page 39 there's a new definition added, it's a definition of emergency. It means any event or imminent threat which, in the determination of the Governor or the principal executive officer of a local government, requires immediate action to effectively respond. But it doesn't define in any way what that event or threat might be, which to me opens