

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

amendment that I spoke of earlier that identify a couple of things that Senator Vrtiska was sympathetic to and which I think will narrow the bill in such a way that hopefully you will feel comfortable enough to allow Senator Vrtiska to address the other concerns on Select File. The first amendment is a sunset clause. It sunsets it on June 30th of 1998, just a two-year period, basically. And so you will know, once that's attached, that at the most this is going to be an experiment for two years and it will come back to us. And if it has not worked well, it will not be reinstated, if it does work well, it may be reinstated. But in any event it will have to come back through the legislative process. So that's the first thing in response to the general concern about the possibility that maybe it is overbroad in its present scope. The second amendment drops the language with regard to the federal government, so that mandates that come from the federal government, in response to Senator Warner's criticism, will not be the type of mandates that could be considered under this process and legislation. That narrows the bill right off in two very significant ways. The other criticisms that have been heard all seem, to me, to be correctable if reasonable people can sit down and talk about it. I think when Senator Vrtiska came to you with this bill, this having been the first time that this kind of bill was proposed, he envisioned it on a particular scale. It seems that that scale was a little too broad for what the members of this Legislature think would be a solid and reasonable experiment. And I think he ought to be given the opportunity to reduce that scale, and to narrow it, and to make it something that would be a worthwhile trial experience for us, again for the reasons that he and others have identified earlier. So that's what this amendment does and would ask for your consideration.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I just had a couple comments that I wanted to make. First of all, I think I have to reexplain the fact that there was a tremendous amount of money that was not accounted for in the funds that the Richardson County was able to secure through the flood costs that they had, in fact over...around \$2.5 million were not allowed, or was not...those monies from the federal government and state of Nebraska, even though the county has indicated they were certainly pleased that they were able to get the money they