

March 13, 1996

LB 383, 633

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of 633.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: LB 633 advances. LB 383.

CLERK: (LB) 383, introduced by Senator Hillman. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 12, referred to the Transportation Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Hillman to open on the bill.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam Chairman and members, the Nebraska Public Transportation Act that was amended in 1963 (sic) with LB 158, which I introduced, was to provide the state funds as a federal match for an inner city bus operation. The amount of those General Funds, at that time, were \$150,000, and that amount has continued, and it was to establish an Inner City Bus System Assistance Program to provide state assistance for the operation of an inner city bus system. What LB 838 (sic) does is it makes an additional provision to the inner city bus system by including financial assistance to match federal funds available for the purchase of vehicles and equipment for the start of an inner city bus system, or replacement of vehicles used in the operation of an inner city bus system. The vehicles should be titled to a municipality, a county, transit authority, or qualified public purpose organization, which is what is in the criteria right now. What it does is it just broadens the funding from just operations to also equipment. With ADA improvements and the need for additional equipment the present criteria doesn't cover that. The \$150,000 General Funds would not increase, it's only based on a federal match and that's all they spend is for the federal match. But they could use this money for equipment, as well as operations, if we would support 383. And, with that, I would ask your support.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Hillman, a question, please.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes.