

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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January 21, 1999 LB 172

Chairman of the Agricultural Committee, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 172 is brought before the Ag Committee by the Public Service Commission, which oversees the licensing and regulation of grain warehouses through its Grain Warehouse Division. As part of their official function, the division inspects the books, records, and accounts of grain warehouses. It also regulates warehouse activities mainly relating to the issuance of scale tickets, payment for grain, and grain storage rates. What LB 172 does is lengthen the minimum amount of time that can pass between warehouse inspections performed by the Grain Warehouse Division from 9 months to 12 months. I want to be clear that it doesn't say they can only inspect once a year, but just that they must inspect at least once a year. The division will still maintain the discretion to inspect more frequently those warehouses that have had problems. For example, if a license has been suspended or whether there is a showing of a weak financial position, the division may inspect two or three or even more times a year. I think everyone will recognize that this bill is designated...is designed to be a management tool for the Public Service Commission so it can focus on resources more on the problem areas and a little less on conducting frequent inspections of facilities as part of a statutory requirement. I'd be happy to answer any questions. I should tell you there was no opposition to the legislation. We had this same legislation before us last year, but we got beat out in the crunch of time and so we have it again this year. I thank you and ask for your support to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. There being no lights on, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR DIERKS: I'll waive closing.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator waives closing. The question before us is the advancement of LB 172 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 172.