

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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January 26, 1999 LB 68, 293

think he hit the nail on the head when he pointed out that this is an issue that the plugging of oil wells is accurately a part of the cost of doing business. It's very appropriate for the Oil and Gas Commission to work with the operators and come forward and say, we want to pay for our own problems. This will not require any tax funds. It is a self-discipline. It will build a fund to protect us from potential future liability. It will address an environmental problem as it has been addressed. This is nothing new. The Oil and Gas Commission has been in existence, actually, the official name is the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, it has been in existence for a number of decades and it has done an outstanding job of protecting the environment. This is an absolutely essential service and they're going to fund and pay for their own problems. And this rather minor bill will take care of this and create a cash fund in which these fees will be held to protect in the future if there are oil companies or oil developers who cannot afford to do the plugging or have abandoned and have left the country, so to speak. So I would ask that this bill be advanced to Select File.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The motion is to advance LB 293 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 293.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 293 is advanced to E & R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 68, introduced by Senator Suttle. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 7, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair recognizes Senator Suttle, to open on LB 68.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, LB 68 requires licensing and regulation of the nail