

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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January 26, 1999 LB 178, 270

advancement to E & R Initial of LB 178. Those in favor please vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 178.

SENATOR COORDSEN: LB 178 is advanced. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 270, Mr. President, by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 11 of this year, at that time referred to Natural Resources. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Bromm, to open on LB 270.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. LB 270 makes a very few words change in the laws of the state of Nebraska, but it's not insignificant. And for those who haven't been in the body very long, this deals with the leaky underground storage tank problem that started quite a long time ago and which this body's been trying to address in the last several years more and more intensely. And what the bill does is basically changes the date in Nebraska for a station owner or tank owner or operator to report a release of a leak. It moves the deadline from June 30th of 1999 and the original bill would have removed that date to June 30th of 2004. There will be a committee amendment, I think which will be proposed, which was adopted, extending the date only to 2001, which basically would be a two-year extension of the date to report a leaky underground storage tank release. Now what is the significance of this? Let me try to give just a little bit of background. Dating back to 1984, Congress enacted federal legislation requiring the EPA to develop regulations to address the installation and use and maintenance of leaky underground storage tanks or petroleum underground storage tanks. In '80...in 1986, Congress passed legislation which mandated underground storage tank financial responsibility requirements, and that required owners and operators of underground storage tanks to demonstrate proof of financial responsibility for both the cost of any remedial actions that might be required or for third party compensation for bodily injury or property damage resulting from leaky underground storage tank releases. According to the estimates at that time,