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LB 628

that omission. Secondly, LB 628 will clarify that citizens have a right to access to electronic or to computerized records, certainly the wave of the future, the way that we are handling records now, electronic or computerized, but it would be only if those records are kept in that form by the custodian of those records. As increasing amounts of government information are kept electronically, clearly I think we all would agree the public should have clear right and clear access thereto. Third, LB 628 will provide specificity as to the amount of charges that may be assessed by a custodian of public records for copies of those records. Finally, LB 628 will adopt a specified response time for the custodian to respond to a request. Under current law, the custodian may delay responding without providing any justification for delay, and I think we all recognize that that thwarts the good purpose and the spirit of access. LB 628 was heard in the Government and Military Affairs Committee last year. After work over the interim, it was advanced to General File unanimously. In the interest of advancing the bill, a committee amendment was adopted before all interested parties had had a complete and full opportunity to agree to all of its provisions. Accordingly, an amendment that will replace the committee amendment will be offered by Senator Bruning and myself. That amendment, AM2492, will contain provisions that will result in all organized...organized opposition, is that the word, organized, to the bill be withdrawn. With that, I would urge the ultimate advancement after we get done with all of the agreed upon amendments of LB 628. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Schimek, on the committee amendments to LB 628.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Before I begin explaining the amendment a little bit, I need to tell you that this amendment really comes from a working group that got together and tried to find common ground on this bill. It is...it's thought to be an important bill for a lot of groups but there was strong disagreement, and if you will notice on your committee statement, you'll notice that the League of Nebraska Municipalities, the city of Norfolk, DAS, and the Nebraska Association of County Officials came in in opposition to the bill even though you had a lot of the media who were proponents. Senator Brashear's office worked with