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LB 1223

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1223, it was a bill introduced by Senator Wehrbein. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 12, referred to the Revenue Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open on LB 1223.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'll be very brief because the committee amendments will become what constitute the bill. This is a takeoff on last year's young farmer...beginning farmer bill that I introduced that is scheduled to take effect on January 1 of 2001. And one of the reasons we delayed implementation, there are several reasons, one of which is to get the regulations in place, another one is to see if there was any fine tuning needed to be done before the bill was implemented. This Young Farmer Board is in existence and has been meeting. It consists of a banker and some people from the Department of Agriculture and an active farmer, two active farmers. And so there are...they are working. As they looked over this there was a few things that they recommended to be changed, and so I have introduced that bill. There's very few, really no significant things, but it does improve the use of the bill, we believe. And there has been interest in it, in case of those of you who were wondering, there is widespread interest across the state of Nebraska, at least based on inquiries. How far it will go I'm not sure into the next year, with the condition of the farming situation being what it is, but there is interest, and that's encouraging. It's been widely distributed about as far as the information on it in other states. Other states have looked at it and it's generally recognized as a problem throughout the Midwest, if not the United States, as far as attracting young farmers back in. And this is an improvement upon that. There's a few things here. It's not going to be the green copy, so if you're looking at the green copy, there has been changes in the green copy. So with that, I approve of...I will endorse the committee amendments and I'll let Senator Wickersham introduce the committee amendments.