closing on the advancement of LB 245. All in favor of advancing the bill please vote aye, and opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 245.

SPEAKER BROMM: LB 245 does advance. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 40 is a bill introduced by Senator Thompson. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 9 of this year, at that time referred to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Bill was advanced to General File. At this time, Mr. President, I have no amendments.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Thompson to open on LB 40.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LB 40 is a bill that was advanced by the Government Committee this year and also last year. There just wasn't time in the session to get to it. What it does is expand the number of people on merit commissions, if a merit commission so desires, from three to five members in counties with a population between 25,000 and 300,000 inhabitants. The reason for this bill is that there have been problems in counties with existing or perceived conflicts of interest with the three-member commission, particularly when a member recuses himself or herself and that person happens to be the one person representing the deputy sheriffs, so there isn't a person who can represent that point of view on the commission. What this would allow is for those merit commissions to make a decision to expand to five members. That would be comprised of adding two from the sheriff's deputies group, two appointed by the judge, and one appointed by the county commissioners. This would enable them to do business more efficiently and effectively, allow more fair representation from all the people involved in the decisions of the merit commission. And so I would urge the body to adopt this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Mr. Clerk, are there any other items on the bill?