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January 27, 2003 LB 92

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm here today to introduce LB 92 and, under the provisions of LB 92, the Rural Development Commission is removed from statute. If you will remember last spring, all the state funding for the commission was struck by the Legislature in our effort to balance the budget. The commission is now seeking nonprofit status so it may change its membership structure. This move to be structured as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization was voted on by the commissioners' board of commissioners and approved by their partners. Removing the language from statute will enable the Rural Development Commission to be eligible for federal funding through the National Rural Development Partnership Act found in the 2002 farm bill administered through USDA. I feel that this bill will give the Rural Development Commission the opportunity to change its membership structure so it may become a rural development council, and the opportunity to move forward as an independent organization to continue the important work that it does in rural development around the state. I ask for your support on this bill and would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Chambers on LB 92.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, once again my rural colleagues are being required to fall on their own sword. I'd like to ask Senator Stuhr a question or two.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Stuhr, would you yield, please?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Stuhr, at the time this commission was receiving funds, if you know, how much was it receiving...

SENATOR STUHR: I don't...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...roughly?