

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 21, 2003 LB 219

agenda item, General File, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 219 offered by Senator Erdman. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10 of this year, referred to the Agriculture Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0247, Legislative Journal page 448.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 219.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Before you is LB 219, a bill of substantive change for most of the people in my area, but probably not many in yours. But it's the responsibility of the state to govern this, and I think this is an important issue that we can address fairly easily. The Nebraska Dry Bean Commission is the only commodity group currently in the state of Nebraska that upon the appointment to members of their commission actually have to seek the consent of the Legislature for their positions. The Corn Board and a number of other boards do not have this provision, and either due to oversight or whatever reason, this has been left in statute. There have been some issues over the years as far as filling vacancies and some concern. And through working with the commission, we've come up with this language. The other part of the bill addresses as far as how long those individuals can serve on the commission. Nebraska is one of the nation's leaders in dry edible bean production, and that's mainly due to the production in western Nebraska. Because a lot of the members on the commission end up serving on the national board, they don't have the opportunity to become leaders or have leadership positions in those organizations because of the fact that they have to serve on a state commission to be eligible. This would extend their term from two terms to three terms. The Ag Committee advanced this unanimously and I believe the committee also has an amendment which would add the emergency clause to this bill. If you have any questions, I would do my best to answer them. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments. Senator Kremer, as