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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2004 LB 939

first time on January 9, referred to the Government Committee. The bill was advanced to General File with no committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, as chairperson of that committee, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 939.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. The bill, LB 939, actually was introduced because of a couple of studies that have been conducted in the last few years by both the Auditor of Public Accounts and the Government Committee, and the focus of those were interlocal agreements. In 2002, the auditor put together a summary of interlocal agreements and joint public agencies. In 2003, the Government Committee researched the same issue as part of the LB 407 Task Force. Both the auditor and the Government Committee discovered local subdivisions are entering into an increasing number of interlocal agreements. The challenge faced by both the auditor and the Government Committee was that response to the surveys were voluntary. Although a lot of useful information was collective...collected, it was not exhaustive. There were some local subdivisions which did not respond to the surveys. With LB 939, each governing body defined under the Nebraska Budget Act would be required to provide information to the Auditor of Public Accounts regarding agreements of which the governing body is a party under the Interlocal Cooperation Act and Joint Public Agency Act. The entities covered by the Nebraska Budget Act are already required to file their budgets with the auditor. These entities include city or county airport authority, cemetery district, city, village, municipal county, community college, county, educational service unit, rural or suburban fire protection district, historical society, hospital district, irrigation district, natural resources district, reclamation district, road improvement district, school district, sanitary and improvement district, township, or a political subdivision with the authority to have a property tax request with the authority to levy a toll, or that received state aid. And that information, that budgetary information has to be provided to the auditor, and so all we're asking is that at the same time these local agencies, subdivisions file a report on their interlocal agreements, and that has to be done by December...on