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FLOOR DEBATE

March 28, 2006 LB 805, 933, 971, 1081, 1097, 1226

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I want to thank Senator Langemeier for his work on LB 1226 and the committee amendment does incorporate some other bills. The committee amendments incorporates provisions of five additional bills, as follows: LB 1081, advanced unanimously by the Agriculture Committee, dealing with noxious weeds, Senator Kremer has had a hand in that; LB 971, advanced by the Revenue Committee unanimously with one member absent, dealing with an increase in levy and budget authority for natural resource districts that contain river basins, subbasins, or reaches that have been declared fully or overappropriated; LB 1097, advanced by the Natural Resources Committee unanimously with two members absent, creates a storm water management plan program for cities and counties that had been mandated by federal government to have a storm water management plan; LB 933, advanced by the Natural Resources Committee by a vote of seven, with one present and not voting--this was legislation proposed as a clean-up legislation for LB 962 and contains language proposed by the Water Policy Task Force to address concerns raised by municipalities; LB 805, advanced by the Natural Resources Committee by a vote of seven, with one present and not voting, creates the Interrelated Water Management Plan program; and LB 1226, dealing with additional authority for the natural resource districts for controls, as well as requirements for the Department of Natural Resources for notification of the determination of fully appropriated and for documentation of the scientific data and information used by the department in reaching its conclusion as to whether a basin is fully appropriated and allows the applicable natural resources district to include all water users within the district boundary as an integrated management plan. AM2578 to LB 1226, there are several sections that were part of LB 933 that contained technical changes recommended by the Department of Natural Resources, dealing with LB 962, which was passed in 2004. Those sections are Sections 3, 5, 19, and 26. Section 28 of the amendment deals with the municipal concerns addressed by the Water Policy Task Force. There is an exemption for municipalities and nonmunicipal, commercial and industrial uses in fully appropriated or overappropriated areas, from allocation restrictions imposed after November 1, 2005. The exemptions would apply until January 1, 2026, at which point allocations