

January 19, 1989

LB 53, 57, 662-682

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the advancement of the bill? Anything further, Senator Weihsing, there are no lights on?

SENATOR WEIHSING: Nothing further, thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is then the advancement of LB 53 to E & R. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 53.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 53 is advanced. Anything for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LBs 662-682 by title for the first time. See pages 313-17 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair also reminds members of the body of the Lied Center tour today. Transportation is available at the south door of the Capitol, south door, Lied Center tour. Returning to General File, Mr. Clerk, LB 57.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 57 was a bill introduced by Senator Coordsen. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 5, referred to Urban Affairs, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen, please.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, this bill last year existed in the form of a friendly amendment to a bill that later came up on consent calendar, and I subsequently withdrew the bill and introduced it this year as a...or withdrew the amendment and introduced it as a separate bill. What this bill does in the use of wheel tax funds in a city, if we remove from statute the words "or for related equipment purchases as a use of the wheel tax funds", words that were put into by the...put in statute by the bill last year. To the best of my knowledge there are four cities in the State of Nebraska that currently levy a wheel tax, none of which use those funds for purchasing of equipment up to this time. It was

May 10, 1989

LB 682, 815, 816

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the motion to advance LB 815.

PRESIDENT: LB 815 is advanced. LB 816.

CLERK: LB 816, Mr. President, introduced by the Appropriations Committee. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on April 21, referred directly to General File, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, LB 816 was a bill brought to us during the appropriation process in the committee by the Fire Marshall's Office in order to provide the funding for inspection as required by statute of underground tanks by the fire...by the Fire Marshall. A portion of the...well, these provisions were, in fact, a part of LB 682 which is still in committee and this portion dealing with the registration fees and where they are to be deposited was...I do not believe was a part of the reason for the bill not being advanced from committee yet but being held for further study. But this portion is necessary in order to provide the funding of...that the Fire...for the Fire Marshall's Office, inspections that they are required to make. Under current law, there are two charges that are made on underground tanks. There is the registration fee which is related to size and it ranges from 7.50 to a maximum of \$15 and in addition there is a current inspection fee of \$15. You add those two together which would be...well, it would be the situation currently why an individual would be paying either 22.50 at a minimum, combination registration and inspection fee, or a maximum of 30, which are two levels of \$15 for the same thing. This makes a single standard fee of \$25 which includes both registration and inspection. It would be, in effect reducing the maximum by \$5 and increasing the minimum by \$2.50, but I assume it's much simpler for administrative purposes in this form. Currently, those funds that are collected from the registration goes to Environmental Control for cleanup. Under LB 816, as I indicated in committee, the funding would have gone to the Fire Marshall for his operations just as is true of LB 816. Federal funds will be used for cleanup and if other provisions come along for funding, those would also be available but the monies from the registration collection fee that is consolidated will go to the Fire Marshall, estimated receipts in the vicinity of \$375,000 for which they will be included in the A bill that follows.