

May 5, 1989

LB 84, 624
LR 129, 130, 131

PRESIDENT: Yes.

CLERK: ...study resolutions, LR 129 by Senator Landis, calling for an examination of possible improvements in Nebraska's insurance statutes; LR 130 by Senator Landis regarding proposals and amendments to LB 100 that impacts the Uniform Commercial Code; and LR 131 by Senator Landis regarding LB 624 introduced this session, dealing with the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act. All three will be referred to Reference. (See pages 2138-40 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to return the bill for specific amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members, this is the last of my amendments. Again, another alternative, I think, would be better for the people we want to help. LB 84 spreads the property tax relief across all property owners, and as a result it's going to some individuals and property owners that probably have the ability to pay their property taxes more than others. And my concern is primarily for the homeowners of the state, that's where I hear the loudest cry for property tax relief, it's from homeowners. There's high property taxes in our homes across the State of Nebraska. This bill would trickle down to homeowners about \$130, I think, on average benefit, just taking the average figures. When, in fact, if you took all of the money here and provided it strictly as a homestead exemption to our homeowners, again, which is constitutional and provided under our Constitution, you would be able to provide \$405 tax relief to our homeowners. So the difference between \$130 and \$405 is significant. If you could go back to your districts and go to your homeowners, to your families, to your middle income individuals, to your elderly and say you're going to get \$405 back off your property taxes as a result of a homestead exemption increase that we provided, I think you'll find a pretty welcome response from those people. But by doing this sort of legislation you have here, by not having the cap, by spreading it around across the board you leave only \$130 to these homeowners. Now these are the people I think we're trying to help. These are the folks that have been crying out for relief and assistance. These are the folks we can do much more to help by adopting this amendment. You know this bill now