

officers and fire fighters employed on or prior to the date that the city became second class. If you will note, at the committee hearing no one spoke in opposition. As I have said, Fairbury is the only city facing this. We have other cities such as Falls City, Ogallala, Holdrege, Wayne and even Ralston that are dangerously close to the 5,000 population line and might have to address this in the near future. Therefore, these proposed changes are not only necessary and equitable to the officers involved but they do retain the statutory distinction between first and second class cities. I move that LB 291 be advanced to E & R initial. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Morehead on LB 291. She, I think, very adequately and very ably stated the case. I won't go into that again but I believe that we just have not been used to thinking of cities growing smaller but in much of Nebraska this is true and we do have to make some provision for this. As Senator Morehead mentioned I have a city in my district, Falls City, who is very close to this area and I think we need a mechanism to take care of an orderly transition for the protection of the interest of the fire fighters in the first class cities and also to have some orderly procedure for future use in case a city wants to continue with that kind of a program or if they should want to discontinue it. I would urge you to support Senator Morehead's bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. President and members, I, too, rise in support of Senator Morehead's LB 291. She did mention other cities in addition to Fairbury that might very possibly be affected by this reduction from first to second class status. I did check with, specifically, a city in my legislative district which could be affected. They are very supportive of this type of legislation because it gives them a chance to retrench while going through that trauma, should it ever happen, of going to second class status. So I think it is good preventive medicine. I would urge the body to advance the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any further discussion on the bill? The question before the House is the advancement of LB 291 to E & R. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. It looks like we have a fire. Record the vote. You are very lucky, Senator Morehead.