

CLERK: Yes, sir. Mr. President, Senator Harris would like to print amendments to 295. (See pages 443-445 of the Legislative Journal.)

Public Works reports 179 to General File; Appropriations reports 152 to General File with committee amendments. (See page 445 of the Legislative Journal.)

I have a notice of hearings from the Appropriations Committee. (See page 443 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Hartnett would like to add his name to 238 and Senator Hall to 164.

PRESIDENT: Without objection, so ordered. Senator DeCamp, do you want to take up your bill before noon?

SENATOR DECAMP: Sure.

PRESIDENT: Go ahead. LB 126.

CLERK: Mr. President, by Senator DeCamp and others. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 11, referred to the Banking Committee, it was advanced to General File. There are Standing Committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, we will make it real quick, simple, I hope. A few years ago the Legislature ventured on a new program. That program was to take a portion of the severance tax money and dedicate it directly to school weatherization. The argument we presented at that time, and it was a very, very messy, hard fought battle but our argument was with the costs of energy going up and the fact that school buildings are constructed according to methods of the old days where they were kind of leaky and not energy efficient, that if the state targeted this money into this particular purpose, it would give us an incredibly good return on investment and it would help in the overall efforts to provide jobs, to provide weatherization, to save on property taxes because money spent on property taxes that would be used by fuel would instead be saved. The program has worked incredibly well. However, when we originally initiated it, we put a sunset, a termination date, and this is the year it terminates. What this legislation does is