

SENATOR BEUTLER: No objection, so ordered. The next bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 372 is the next bill up for consideration. It was offered by Senator Rupp and Senator Lundy. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 18 of this year. It was referred to the Urban Affairs Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Urban Affairs Committee amendments pending.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President and members of the body, here to present the committee amendments to LB 372 and LB 372 is a fairly complex rewriting of Nebraska's Civil Service Act, which relates to police and fire departments. The amendments to the bill are quite extensive also and quite complex. The purpose of LB 372 is to rewrite a Civil Service Act which makes sense and which takes a fair approach to personnel administration. City officials have been unable in the past few years to understand and properly administrate the current act. So this bill was brought to us by a number of entities which had worked together on it. It is a product of a lot of deliberations of the first class cities, the League of Nebraska Municipalities, the Police Officers Association of Nebraska; the ASCME, the American State, County and Municipal Employees; the fire fighters, and the Urban Affairs Committee has also had a lot to do with the writing of this particular bill. Basically, let me explain the amendments. There are about three categories of amendments I would like to go through with you. First, we have what we would call very technical sorts of amendments. Let me give you some examples of those and I won't go through all of those. It is a long bill. It is a bill that has been in place, a statute that has been in place for a good number of years. A lot of this language was obsolete, so when the bill came forward, in a lot of the rewrites and a lot of the examination of it, we found a lot of technical amendments. For instance, in Section 1, subsection (3), page 2, line 7, we strike the word "job class" and put in the word "position". The proponents of this bill and a lot of the people affected by this, felt more comfortable using the term "position". In another place we strike the term "municipalities" and we insert the term "governing body". In another place we strike the word "city attorney" and we insert the term "municipal attorney", because villages don't