

you. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Senator Sieck, does this daily allowance come out of the NRD budget? This does not include the state budget? Or does the state pay this per diem?

SENATOR SIECK: No, this comes out of the budget, so it would be...it could be some state funds. It could be...it is mostly property funds, as you know, most of the NRD budget is property tax.

SENATOR NELSON: Right, I am aware of that, 50, 60 percent. I know of one NRD that does not pay per diem but is very lenient on travel. I suppose you are making no provisions or no limit on travel?

SENATOR SIECK: Oh, yes, this bill will tell them that they have to use the same expense account as the state, so their mileage will be the same. If they have more mileage, then they are legal with this bill, so then they better start getting paid per diem.

SENATOR NELSON: No, they do not pay per diem, but they do pay for a trip to California or other places. There is no limit on those expenses...

SENATOR SIECK: There is a limit on the amount of days that they can put in. That \$15.00 per diem is considered in those meetings, but it is just \$15.00 a day.

SENATOR NELSON: Okay, then I will assume that this will only apply to the NRD boards that pay per diem.

SENATOR SIECK: Right.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Sieck, would you like to close, please, on the advancement of the bill?

SENATOR SIECK: Yes. To address Senator Higgins' concern that I am not maybe paying them enough, I guess I am a little conservative. I have served so many years free of charge in this particular field that I feel many of these people are really dedicated people and are willing to do this. And that is what it takes. Fifteen dollars is not