

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 80.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Record, Mr. Clerk. We did the bill. Okay, Senator Wesely's bothering me up here, so...the next bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 186 by Senator Fisher and Robinson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9, referred to the Transportation Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The Chair would recognize Senator Fisher who, by the way, has asked unanimous consent, if we could dispense with any crude remarks about the term "dummy" appearing in this bill. And so, Senator Fisher, just go ahead and introduce your bill, please.

SENATOR FISHER: Mr. President and members, and I suppose I should ask you not to include hooker on this bill either, if you will notice a hooker testified. (Laughter.) The bill, LB 185, first appeared last year as part of a package of bills that were introduced by Senator Hillman. The rest of these bills were killed by the...after the Department of Roads decided that they could make those necessary changes through their new rules and regulations, but the lone exception was this particular piece of legislation that referred to dummy axles. This change still needs to be made legislative because the dummy axle already existed in existing statutes. What the change does, we add the words "the lesser of 8,000 pounds or" to the previous requirement of at least 8 percent of the gross weight of the vehicle or vehicle combination. And it relates to the bridge formula that's required to be calculated. We heard in testimony that it provides a safety factor of having more than 8,000 on the dummy axle that could affect the steering axle while making turns with these large trailers and equipment. It also gives the specialized motor equipment the same exemption as the oil rigs now have. I understand the Department of Roads was in agreement. They were there at the committee and spoke neither for or against it. And they would, they assured me that they would have handled this through their rules and regulations had the statutory mention not existed. There is, of course, no fiscal impact on this. I will be available to answer any questions and I ask that you advance this bill. Thank you.