

concept of the bill, it would probably be more coherent to be discussed by Senator McKenzie, also considering the fact that she has an amendment to the committee amendments which will be coming up here in one second.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator McKenzie, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. LB 145 was introduced last session and advanced for consent calendar but was one of those many bills that did not have a chance for discussion on the floor. The concept is very simple. It allows that a replacement well categorization can exist in the event that we want to move to a more efficient use of water by changing from, for example, gravity irrigation, from the edges of a field, to a center pivot by placing a well in the center. Currently, state law states that you cannot do that if it is more than 600 feet from the original well, which inhibits the replacement of many wells for that purpose. LB 145 basically allows that we will consider a replacement well any time it replaces an abandoned water well within three years of the last operation of that abandoned well and that it is constructed to provide water to the same tract of land as the abandoned water well being replaced. That is essentially what the bill does. It allows that the original...the amendment to the amendment places that language back in the committee amendment and also then allows that the original registration number of the abandoned water well be transferred to the new replacement well if applicable. It does not in any way allow NRDs or the owner of the well to go outside the rules and regulations of an NRD in a water control area or management area or special protection area. It just allows in areas of the state where we are not under any kind of strict regulation that the replacement can be made and the original registration date maintained.

SENATOR LANDIS: That's the committee amendments. Mr. Clerk, is there an amendment to the committee amendments?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator McKenzie would move to amend the committee amendments with AM1018. (AM1018 appears on page 1171 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR LANDIS: Does that appear in the Journal, Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: It does not appear in the Journal. Senator