

February 8, 1996 LB 967, 1072

orientated, they will have more time before they actually work on the budget. I think that this bill then provides for more consistency because all of the classes will be aligned together. And actually, also, at the general election, there usually are more voter, a greater voter turnout. So I think it will benefit everyone. I'd be happy to answer any questions that anyone might have.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Any discussion or LB 967? Senator Stuhr, yours is the only light, would you like to close? Senator Stuhr waives closing. The question is the adoption...the advancement to E & R Initial of LB 967. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: The bill advances. LB 1072, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, LB 1072 was introduced by Senators Abboud, Schimek, and Vrtiska. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 5. It was referred to the Business and Labor Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with no committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Vrtiska, on LB 1072 to open.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Abboud isn't here and I'm going to take...try to explain the bill. What LB 1072 does, it was introduced on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Labor. Its intent is to bring Nebraska law into compliance with state and federal regulations. The bill would allow the voluntary withholding of federal income tax from unemployment benefits as required by the federal government. Such benefits are taxable. This requirement was a direct result of the implementation of the GATT Treaty. The section states the necessity to advise the recipient of the availability of the option and sets forth rules regarding the withheld funds. The bill also makes a change in the Employment Security Administration Fund statutes. Some administrative costs are paid for from this fund and the fund is reimbursed. While this practice is not prohibited, it is not specifically authorized by statute. It would be with this change. This change has been requested at the...has been at the request of the Nebraska State