

February 23, 1996 LB 1248, 1326, 1366

LB 1326, General File with amendments; and, LB 1366 to General File with amendments. These all signed by the committee chair, Senator Wesely. (See pages 891-901 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I had, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now go to General File. LB 1248. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 1248 was a bill originally introduced by Senator Vrtiska and Robinson and Beutler. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 17 of this year. At that time it was referred to the Government Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Robinson, to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President and members of the body, as Senator Vrtiska will explain, the bill concerns a financial state of emergency that may occur to any local government in Nebraska and how the state may help the local governments in certain situations. The committee had a very good hearing on this bill and it's proposed an amendment to the bill that we feel will adequately deal with this problem. The committee amendment defines catastrophic disaster within our civil defense statutes to mean a financial state of emergency caused by expenses which are related to a disaster combined with abnormal expenses of government incurred as the result of legal mandates and requirements imposed on local governments by the state or federal government. These expenses must be incurred within the five proceeding years but may be related to acts or incidents which occurred prior to that time and they must create an undue burden on local government due to a lack of visible fiscal resources. The committee amendment creates the Catastrophic Disaster Fund, which may be used for any catastrophic disaster. The fund is administered by the Adjutant General and shall be expended upon the direction of the Governor. The Governor is to look and determine if the demands on funds regularly appropriated to state and local agencies are unreasonably great, and if so, he or she may use the Catastrophic Disaster Funds to provide relief. Applications for relief should be made to the state civil defense agency and the amendment sets forth, in