

CLERK: Mr. President, 1322, originally introduced by Senator Wesely. (Read title.) The bill has been discussed. Committee amendments have been adopted, as was an amendment to the committee amendments. When the Legislature adjourned on Thursday, Senator Maurstad had pending FA472 found on page 977, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad, could you bring us up to date on your amendment.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Mr. President, the amendment we were discussing when we concluded last Thursday was the amendment which deletes on page 3 of the green copy, the first four words in line 1, the "appropriations from the Legislature," which, in essence, would mean that the Housing Trust Fund would have to be created from sources other than an appropriation from the Legislature.

SPEAKER WITHEM: For discussion of the Maurstad amendment, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. We did discuss this last week, and I will, again, rise in opposition to the Maurstad amendment. This merely provides an option to the Legislature should we choose, at a later date, to fund this fund through a general appropriations measure. Obviously, the idea is through a trust fund to establish a revenue source and we did look at and consider a number of options, and in doing that through the task force that was formed last year. The task force had a number of ideas but needed more time to work on it further, and so the thinking was we would go forward with those elements addressing the needs in housing in the state of Nebraska that we could agree on, and then work further on those that we needed to examine further and then come back next year with recommendations. So that's why we came forward with this bill that establishes the trust fund, that establishes the task force that looks at these issues. Then we will get an idea of what our revenue sources might be and we can consider those and perhaps act on them next session. We also have the option, should a revenue source not be identified, if there isn't a consensus on that, it still doesn't mean we shouldn't have the option as a Legislature to consider putting appropriations into this trust fund. I would argue that you tie the hands of the Legislature by not maintaining this language in the bill. What