

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 4, 1997 LB 106

CLERK: LB 106. Introduced by Senator Hudkins. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9, referred to the General Affairs Committee, advanced to General File.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Hudkins, to open on LB 106.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body. LB 106 came about because of a group of fourth graders from Valley, Nebraska, Valley Elementary School. They had been studying Nebraska and had discovered that we had a state tree, a state bird, a state flower, and so forth, but we did not have a state fish or a state crop. They did some research and discovered that the channel catfish is a native fish, it's a very popular fish, a very widespread fish. So, they thought that this would be a good example of the Nebraska state fish. Likewise with the corn. They also did research on that, and they discovered that in Nebraska corn is grown on one out of three acres. So, they thought that corn, since it is such a high profile crop, would be the ideal official crop for Nebraska. They wrote to the Governor and asked him if he could name these as the two newest symbols for Nebraska. He told them that this was not in his jurisdiction, that it had to be done by legislative action. So, they wrote to me. I said, yes, I could prepare the legislation and introduce it, but I wanted them to come and tell the members of the committee why they wanted these two new symbols. They did that. We had several students here from Valley telling why they wanted corn and catfish. They said that catfish were very unique. They had whiskers, just like Nebraskans. They said that corn was a good crop because it can be used for food, it can be used for fuel. So, they wanted this very much. This is where the bill is right now. It is up to you to pass this on to the next round of reading, to designate the corn and the catfish as Nebraska's two newest symbols. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Kristensen would move to amend. (Amendment, AM0090, found on page 459 of the Legislative Journal.) I understand Senator Hudkins will handle it for him.