

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 18, 1997 LB 199

have, Mr. President. (See pages 634-38 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: I'd like to make an announcement that we do have guests of the Legislature in the north balcony, guests of Senator McKenzie. We have 25 Aurora and Merrick County Leadership Tomorrow participants from Aurora and Merrick County. Would you please all stand and be recognized. Well, and there is Senator McKenzie up there, too. Great! With that, Mr. Clerk, LB 199.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 199, originally introduced by the Agriculture Committee and signed by its membership. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, referred to the Agriculture Committee, advanced to General File. Committee amendments have been adopted on February 13, Mr. President. I have no amendments pending at this time to the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Dierks, would you bring us up-to-date on LB 199 and what it seeks to accomplish.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. We did get started on LB 199 just before adjournment last Thursday. And there were a few questions and I thought maybe we ought to update your knowledge on the issue, so I passed out a handout there you'll see on your desks that tells you that LB 199 is an update to the Nebraska Pure Food Act. And this is a statutory mechanism under which the Department of Agriculture enforces sanitation and safety standards for the handling, storage, preparation and serving of food in restaurants, grocery stores and other retail establishments. And what's happened, we have provided you with the four years previous spending, on the second page, and the third page gives you an idea of what food establishment inspection fees are going to be, what they have been, and what they will be. And then the last page gives you a listing of the people on the committee, the review board, that went over this whole process. And they've agreed to the increase in fees. Now this is a committee that's made up of restaurant association people, and agricultural department people, the Retail Grocers Association, it's well represented, and this was a consensus that they came up with, so this was not a surprise to anybody in the industry. And I would just...I