

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate February 26, 2021
Rough Draft

HILGERS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the thirty-fourth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Bostelman. Please rise.

BOSTELMAN: Good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Nebraska. This morning, senate-- Pastor Bruick from St. John's Lutheran Church in Seward, Nebraska, prepared our prayer for this morning. Please join me in prayer. Gracious Lord and creator of life, we humbly come to you today for we realize the struggles and burdens that we each experience in our lives. Lord, these struggles and burdens we cannot fix by ourselves. The same is also true in the lives of all, of all whom we serve in this state. Therefore, we pray. Grant us the wisdom and discernment that is needed in the work that is before us this day. May our deliberations and decisions become blessings in the lives of the citizens of our state, cause us to grow in our respect for all human life, move us to speak truth in love, and when we fall short of our callings in this vocation of government, may the grace of Jesus Christ cover us. All this we ask in his name. Amen.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Bostelman. Senator Day, you are recognized for the pledge.

DAY: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Day. I call to order the thirty-fourth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

HILGERS: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, there are. I have a series of reports on various gubernatorial appointments from the Natural Resources Committee. In addition to that, an amendment to be printed to LB507 from Senator John Cavanaugh, a report of registered lobbyists for the

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current week, as well as an announcement that various agency reports have been filed and are available through the website. Finally, an announcement that the Revenue Committee will meet today in an Executive Session immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Revenue Committee hearing in Room 1524. That's all I have at this time.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Lowe would like to recognize Dr. Jordan Moncrief of Kearney who is serving as our family physician of the day. Dr. Moncrief is seated under the north balcony. Please rise and be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. We'll turn to the first item on the agenda, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, first bill this morning is LB106A offered by Senator Friesen. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of LB106. The bill is currently on General File and has been considered previously by the body, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Friesen, would you like to take a few seconds to refresh us on this bill?

FRIESEN: Thank you, Mr. President. It's feeling a little bit like Groundhog Day. This probably-- the fifth time's the charm. This bill is the A bill that followed LB106, which raised the fee on those people accessing drivers' records and it implements that fee in order to purchase a new driver's license system-- computer system. So with that, I would appreciate your vote on LB106A. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Friesen. Debate is now open on LB106A. Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm not filibustering this. I hope we vote on it today and LB113A too. I just wanted to say that we'll-- working with Senator Hansen-- Ben Hansen and Senator Friesen and even contacting DMV. There needs to be some accountability in this and there needs to be an amendment that they report on their progress because money is going to build up for-- we don't know how many years. It's going to be a lot of money and institutional knowledge is being lost with term limits, so there needs to be a report every couple of years to the Transportation Committee, but that's all I have to say and I'm voting green on LB106A. Thank you.

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HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Groene. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Friesen, you're welcome to close. Senator Friesen waives closing. Members, the question before us is the advancement of LB106A to E&R. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Speaker Hilgers, you're recognized.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Update going into next week, thank you for all the, the hard work-- I will say at the front end-- for the all-day committee hearings. I know that it's been an incredible burden on everyone involved. It's been really critical for our process this year. And the good news is next week, except for our, our friends on the Judiciary Committee, is the last week of all-day committee hearings for all the committees, so where-- we are in the final-- the homestretch for committee hearings. Next week, as I told you before, on Tuesday morning, we will have floor debate. My intent on Tuesday morning is to schedule a worksheet order General File bills as well as Select File bills. Now the Select File bills will only be those bills that have-- either have no amendments at all or only in E&R amendments, so that's what you'll see on the agenda next Tuesday. The remaining days will be check-in days like we've done. I do intend to schedule some things on those days, primarily, I think just confirmation reports next week. The following week, we will start with floor debate, as I've mentioned before, and I'll have a more fulsome update at the end of next week as to what that will look like in terms of priority bill scheduling and the like. So thank you for all your work this week. I hope everyone enjoys your weekend and we'll see you next week. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, next bill, LB113A by Senator Albrecht. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of LB113.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Albrecht, you're welcome to open on LB113A.

ALBRECHT: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. LB113A is the appropriations bill for the LB113. The bill appropriates

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funds in each of the two years of the biennium to account for the cost of mailing specialty plates. This bill also appropriates funds to the Motor Vehicle Carrier System Replacement and Maintenance Fund for the development and request for proposal in the first year of the biennium and funds for the development of the modernization system with a new vendor in the second year of the biennium. I ask for your support of LB113A and for a green light to advance the bill to Select. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Albrecht. Debate is now open on LB113A. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Albrecht, you're welcome to close. Senator Albrecht waives closing. Members, the question before us is the advancement of LB113A to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Items? Colleagues, we're going to stand at ease for just a little bit as we process some additional material that's come in.

[EASE]

HUGHES: Mr. Clerk, for items.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Your Committee on Government, Military and Veterans Affairs reports LB631 to General File. Amendments to be printed: Senator Hunt to LB231, Senator Flood to LB39, Senator Bostelman to LB148, Senator Bostelman to LB398, Senator Albrecht to LB113. I have a Reference Report referring LR49 to the Urban Affairs Committee. A series of name adds and withdrawals: Senator Erdman to LB173, Senator Lindstrom to LB188, Senator McDonnell to LB236, Senator Bostar to LB299, Senator Kolterman to LB306, Senator Cavanaugh to withdraw from LB489. Finally, Mr. President, a priority motion. Senator Gragert would move to adjourn until Monday, March 1, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

HUGHES: Colleagues, you've heard the motion to adjourn. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. We are adjourned.