

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 21, 2021

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

GEIST: Good morning. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father, we come to you today and ask for your mercy and grace. We ask for vision, for courage. Thank you so much for the blessings that we have. And even in hard times, help us to remember that you are the author of our blessing and our hope. In Jesus's name, we pray, amen.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Geist. Senator Lathrop, you're recognized for the Pledge of Allegiance.

LATHROP: Thank you. Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. 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 Lathrop. I call to order the seventh day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Senators please record your presence. Roll call.

HUGHES: Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections to the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: None thus far, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now proceed to the first item-- item on the agenda.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr.--

HUGHES: Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the first item, committee report from the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee concerning the appointment of Gerald Clausen to the Public Employees Retirement Board.

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HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Kolterman. You're recognized to open on your confirmation report.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you, Senator. Colleagues, the Nebraska Retirement System Committee held a confirmation hearing on September 14 for Gerald Clausen. The governor appointed Mr. Clausen to fill the remaining term of one of the public representatives on the Public Employees Retirement Board. His term will expire in January of 2023. The Public Employees Retirement Board oversees the administration of the retirement system, which includes the judges', State Patrol and school employees' defined benefit plans, the state and the county cash balance plans and defined contribution plans, and the deferred compensation plan. Mr. Clausen was a city manager of Carroll, Iowa, for 22 years. He was a graduate of the Nebraska LEAD program, born and raised in Bloomfield, Nebraska. He's a trained negotiator, mediator, facilitator, and planner with management experience. He's currently retired and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. He will bring a valuable business perspective to the Public Employees Retirement Board that will be beneficial to the administration of the retirement system. The Retirement Committee unanimously voted to move Mr. Clausen's appointment to the Legislature for confirmation. I ask for your support in confirming the appointment to the Public Employees Retirement Board.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. Is there any discussion on the report? Seeing none, Senator Kolterman, you're welcome to close. Senator Kolterman waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of the report offered by the Retirement Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee report.

HUGHES: The report is adopted. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, next item, committee report from the Health and Human Services Committee concerning three gubernatorial appointments to the Health Information Technology Board.

HUGHES: Colleagues, if we could keep our conversations to a minimum. Senator Arch, you're recognized to open on the Health and Human Services report.

ARCH: Good morning, colleagues. Today I'm bringing to you three gubernatorial appointments to the newly formed Health Information

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Technology Board. The Health Information Technology Board establishes criteria for data collection and disbursement by the statewide Health Information Exchange and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. This is CyncHealth. These nominees were voted out of committees 6-0, with one member present, not voting. Ashley Newmyer is the chief data strategist for the Department of Health and Human Services. In her role at DHHS, she's responsible for the data that is collected and used in the department. She's filling the statutory position of representative of the Department of Health and Human Services on the board. During her hearing, she noted the value-- that the value for healthcare providers and physicians to see a longitudinal health record will be invaluable in helping craft a safe and effective treatment plan. Felicia Quintana-Zinn is the deputy director of health data for the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health. In her role at DHHS, she has been responsible for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and worked with the Office of Injury Surveillance. She's filling the statutory position of one individual with experience operating the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program on the board. During her hearing, she agreed that Nebraska is unique in that it is a-- it has a single Health Information Exchange, and the opportunities that come with a single HIE are exciting. Kevin Bagley is the director of the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care in the Department of Health and Human Services. He is filling the statutory role of healthcare payer on the board in his capacity as director of Medicaid. During-- during his hearing, he stated he would like to craft policies that support long-term goals of healthcare leaders by improving patient and provider experiences. Again, these nominees were voted out of committee 6-0, with one member present, not voting. I urge your green vote on their confirmation. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Arch. Discussion is now open on the Health and Human Services nomination report. Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I am the member of the Health and Human Services Committee that was present, not voting, on these nominations. While I was not able to attend the hearings for these particular nominations, I could not support them because of previous testimony given by Mr. Bagley to the committee about this very board and the formation of this board and the opposition to the formation of this board and-- and the unwillingness of the department to comply with some of the components. I believe that they are beginning to comply now, but it has been a struggle for the-- for the data collection, and so I-- I can't in good conscience vote for these individuals because of those reasons.

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Additionally, the Governor has appointed three people within the Health and Human Services agency to the board. Only one position is required to be an agency person, so I-- I believe we are diminishing our ability to fully represent communities across the state when we do things like that. They work for the Governor. They work at the privilege of the Governor, and I think that that is creating an environment that is not appropriate. So I will be voting no this morning on these nominations. And I thank you, everyone, for your time.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Arch, you're welcome to close on your committee report. Senator Arch waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of the report offered by the Health and Human Services Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 1 nay on the adoption of the committee report.

HUGHES: The report is adopted. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next item, Mr. President, committee report from the Health and Human Services Committee concerning certain gubernatorial appointments to the Health Information Technology Board.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Arch, you're welcome to open on the next report.

ARCH: Thank you. Good morning, colleagues. Today I'm bringing to you an additional nine gubernatorial appointments to the newly formed Health Information Technology Board. The Health Information Technology Board establishes criteria for data collection and disbursement by the statewide Health Information Exchange and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. These nine appointees were voted unanimously out of committee. Manuela "Manny" Banner is a registered nurse, a professional administrator in Blair, Nebraska. She's filling the statutory role of hospital administrator on the board. During her hearing, she stated that she sees value in the Health Information Exchange and the opportunities for providing better quality of care, but wishes to balance that with ensuring protection of-- of personal data. Dr. Anna Dalrymple is a family physician in Gothenburg, part-time faculty at UNMC, and has board experience on other boards. She's filling the statutory role of one of two physicians on the board. During her hearing, she stated she wants to be a voice for patients and providers in the rural area and will bring a unique

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advantage [SIC] point, having lived in both urban and rural settings. Dr. Kimberley Haynes-Henson-- Henson is an associate professor of anesthesiology at UNMC and is also a pain management physician at the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center at UNMC in Omaha. She's filling the statutory role of healthcare provider, board certified in pain management, on the board. During her hearing, she noted the impact of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for pain providers has been invaluable and helped with early intervention. Monalisa McGee is the divisional social services director at the Salvation Army in Omaha, with a master's in counseling and a doctorate degree in education in human and community resource development. She's filling the statutory role of alcohol and drug counselor on the board. During her hearing, she noted that the electronic communication afforded by the Health Information Exchange can help prevent gaps in care. Lynn Edwards is the director of health information at Gothenburg Hospital. She is filling the statutory role of health information management professional on the board. She has a master's in health administration and has worked with health information systems in Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, California, Alaska, and here in Nebraska. During her hearing, she noted that information technology and access is changing and expressed a desire to advocate for patients while also protecting health information. Jessika Benes is a veterinarian who lives and works in Adams County while also traveling to work in Hall County. She also serves on the board of directors for the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association. She is filling the statutory role of veterinarian on the board. During her hearing, she stated she was committed to rural healthcare opportunities. Aimee Black has a master's in nursing and is the director of quality and safety at Nebraska Methodist and Methodist Women's Hospital. She is filling the statutory role of representative of a delegate on the board. During her hearing, she stated that we need a good health information system to safely transfer patients from the hospital to after-care placement. Dr. Stephen Salzbrenner is a board-certified psychiatrist at UNMC; runs an-- an es-- esketamine clinic for the treatment of depression. He served in the Navy after graduating from Creighton Medical School and has served as a consulting liaison in the military. He is filling the statutory role of one of two physicians on the board. During his hearing, he's filling the statutory role-- excuse me-- he-- he stated that he hoped to be a voice for someone who uses the PDMP every day and is passionate about ensuring quick, quality healthcare. Finally, Jaime Bland is the president and CEO of CyncHealth, formerly NeHII. She is filling the statutory role of representative of the statewide Health Information Exchange. She's worked previously with the Legislature regarding status on our PDMP and our Health Information Exchange. During her hearing, she noted that there is always a tension

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between the use of data and the transparency regarding the use of that data, which is a critical component. Again, all nine of these nominations to the Health Information Technology Board were voted unanimously out of committee. I would urge your green vote on their confirmation. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Arch. Is there any discussion on the report? Seeing none, Senator Arch, you're welcome to close on the report. Senator Arch waives closing. Colleagues, the question is the adoption of the report offered by the Health and Human Services Committee. 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 adoption of the committee report.

HUGHES: The report is adopted. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next item, Mr. President, committee report from the Health and Human Services Committee concerning four gubernatorial appointments to the Foster Care Advisory Committee.

HUGHES: Senator Arch, you're welcome to open on the next report from Health and Human Services Committee.

ARCH: Good morning, colleagues. Today I'm bringing to you four gubernatorial appointments to the Foster Care Advisory Committee. The Foster Care Advisory Committee supports and facilitates the work of the Foster Care Review Office, which tracks children in foster care and reviews foster care file audit case reviews. Initial foster care file audit reviews are performed by local foster care review boards. The appointees to the Foster Care Advisory Committee are all reappointments and were all voted unanimously out of committee. Peggy Snurr is a special educator and Mandt trainer in Lincoln. She's a member of the Lincoln Education Association, the Lincoln Foster Care Review Board, and a former chairperson of the Foster Care Advisory Committee. In her testimony, she noted the impact that new foster care placements can have on children, including negative educational outcomes. Michael Aerni is a retired military schoolteacher from Fremont who spent 37 years as an educator. He is a member of the Fremont Foster Care Review Board and the current chair of the Foster Care Advisory Committee. In his testimony, he stated the biggest current challenge when it comes to foster care is the ratio of children per caseworker. Noelle Petersen is a former Nebraska legislative administrative aide to Senator Tony Fulton, which is how she learned of and became interested in local foster care review

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boards. She has served on her local foster care review board for the past ten years and is-- is an adoptive mother. She's also the current vice chairperson of the Foster Care Advisory Committee. In her hearing, she stated that when you're-- you are exposed to kids who linger in care, you develop a passion for doing better for them. Dr. Michele Marsh is a child and adolescent psychiatrist working at CHI Immanuel Hospital in Omaha. She's been on the Foster Care Advisory Committee since 2017. During her testimony, she stated it has been an honor to serve on the committee, but there is still more to do for the children in foster care. She hopes to find ways to lighten the stress caused by removal from the home and help provide more stability. Again, these appointees are all reappointments to the committee and they were all voted out of committee unanimously. I urge your green vote on these nominees. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Arch. Is there any discussion on the report? Seeing none, Senator Arch, you're welcome to close on your report. Senator Arch waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of the report offered by the Health and Human Services Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 41 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the com-- committee report.

HUGHES: The report is adopted. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next item, Mr. President, committee report from the Health and Human Services Committee concerning certain gubernatorial appointments to the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board.

HUGHES: Senator Arch, you're welcome to open on the Health and Human Se-- Health and Human Services Committee report

ARCH: [RECORDER MALFUNCTION] you. Thank you. Good morning, colleagues. Today I'm bringing to you three gubernatorial appointments to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board. The Child Abuse Prevention Fund is a dedicated fund to prevent the destructive effects of child abuse, and the board oversees and disperses those funds, partners with local agencies and organizations to develop prevention plans and educational materials, and encourages public awareness. These appointees were voted unanimously out of committee. Donald Blackbird, Jr., is a new appointee to the board. Mr. Blackbird is a deacon with the Archdiocese of Omaha, the principal of St. Augustine's Elementary School in Winnebago, and is a member of the Omaha Nation. In his testimony, he noted the unique characteristics of the community he lives in and

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serves. He noted the Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board has a record of working with rural communities and implementing interesting, effective programs. Georgina "Georgie" Scurfield is a new appointee to the board. Ms. Scurfield has spent her 35-year career working in community-based social work in the United Kingdom, in Alabama, and in Nebraska, in Douglas and Sarpy County. In her testimony, she stated her interest in the board was in-- in how to fund programs to help families directly, especially in how to be better parents, how to manage trauma, ensuring concrete support is available, and looking at how to make programs real, effective, and accessible. Dr. Paul Nelson is a reappointment to the board. Dr Nelson graduated from medical school in Nebraska in 1969 and has experience in internal medicine and pediatrics. In his first 10 years of practice, he was a pediatric consultant to Child Protective Services for the county. During his hearing, he said he takes a personal interest in encouraging the board to help establish a recurring analysis of the status of child neglect in the state. Again, these appointees were voted unanimously out of committee, and I urge your green vote for confirmation of these appointees. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Arch. Discussion is now open on the report. Seeing none, Senator Arch, you're welcome to close on the report. Senator Arch waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of the report offered by the Health and Human Services Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 43 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee report.

HUGHES: The report is adopted. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next item, Mr. President, committee report from the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee concerning the appointment of Jeffrey Davis to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Brewer, you're welcome to open on the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee report.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. On Tuesday, September 14, the Government Committee held a hearing on an appointment by the-- for the Governor. The first one was on the appointment to the Accountability and Disclosure Commission for a Mr. Jeff Davis. The committee voted 7-0 to approve with one person absent. This is a reappointment. I'm going to expedite any reading of a bio and simply ask that you vote

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positively for his appointment to the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Brewer. Is there any discussion on the report? Seeing none, Senator Brewer, you're welcome to close on your report. Senator Brewer waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of the report offered by the Government Committee. 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 adoption of the committee report.

HUGHES: The report is adopted. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next item, Mr. President, committee report from the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee concerning four appointments to the Nebraska Tourism Commission.

HUGHES: Senator Brewer, you're welcome to open on the next report.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, on Tuesday, September 14, the Government Committee held a hearing on the interim appointment by the Governor. We had four individuals that were re-- that have applied for reappointment to their positions. This, again, is with the Tourism Commission. They are John Chapo, Ashley Olson, Darrin Barner, and Barry McFarland. All of them are reappointments. They-- again, we had a 7-0 vote of the committee with one absent and I recommend their confirmation to the positions with the Nebraska Tourism Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Brewer. Is there any discussion on the report? Seeing none, Senator Brewer, you're welcome to close on your report. Senator Brewer waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the adoption of the report offered by the Government Committee. 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 adoption of the committee report.

HUGHES: The report is adopted. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next item, Mr. President, committee report from the Judiciary Committee concerning an appointment to the Board of Parole.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Lathrop, as Chair of the Judiciary Committee, you're welcome to open on your report.

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LATHROP: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, good morning. The Judiciary Committee held a confirmation hearing on September 15, 2021, to place Habib Olomi on the Board of Parole. Mr. Olomi has worked for the state of Nebraska for 15 years, 11 years in the Department of Corrections and 4 years with the Department of Administrative Services. At the Department of Corrections, he served as a caseworker, training specialist, and emergency preparedness specialist. I think the Judiciary Committee was generally heartened to see someone with experience at the Department of Corrections, a caseworker, somebody that works one on one with the inmates to develop their plan. It seemed like a good fit and, as a consequence, Mr. Olomi's confirmation was advanced on a 7-0 vote. I would encourage your support of this nominee to the Parole Board. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Discussion is now open on the Judiciary Committee report. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Lathrop, you're welcome to close. Senator Lathrop waives closing. The question before us is the adoption of the report offered by the Judiciary Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 41 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee report.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, we are going to skip over the next item on the agenda from the Education Committee and move to Natural Resources. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, committee report from the Natural Resources Committee concerning several appointments to the Environment-- Environmental Quality Council.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Bostelman, you're welcome to open on the Natural Resource Committee report.

BOSTELMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Morning, Nebraska. I present for your approval ten appointments to the Environmental Quality Council: Kurt Bogner, Joseph Citta, Tassia Falcon da Silva Steidley, Robert Hall, Lance Hedquist, Jessica Kolterman, Kevin Peterson, Marty Stange, Amy Staples, and Alden Zuhlke. Kurt Bogner-- Bogner came before the committee on September 15. Mr. Bogner graduated in 1988 from Bowling Green State University in Ohio with a master of science in geology. After graduation, he held several positions as a senior geologist before becoming an environmental supervisor at Nucor Steel in Norfolk. Mr. Bogner-- Bogner also serves his community by holding several board member positions

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from Keystone Christian Academy, Oasis Counseling, and Norfolk Public Library. He is a new appointment to the council and will fill the position of heavy industry. Joseph Citta, Jr., came before the committee on September 14. Mr. Citta graduated from Hastings College in 1973 with a bachelor of arts degree in biology and science. Mr. Citta holds over 43 years of experience in various positions in the operations and environmental area and currently is responsible for NPPD's corporate and environmental compliance stewardship efforts and oversees the environmental and water resource policies and processes that support the utility's operational and strategic needs. He is a reappointment to the council, filling the position of power industry. Tassia Falcon da Silva Steidley came before the committee on September 15. Ms. Steidley graduated with her undergraduate degree in biology in Brazil, where she was born and raised. During her time there, she published 13 peer-reviewed art-- articles on molecular biology and environmental research. From there, she went on to complete her master's in environmental technology from Arizona State University. Ms. Steidley is a member of the National Environmental Health Association, as well as holds a registered environmental health specialist, registered sanitarian credential. Currently, she is an environmental manager for-- for Monolith, where she is responsible for leading and improving the environmental programs. She is seeking appointment for the first term and will be filling the position of minority populations. Robert Hall: Robert Hall came before the committee on September 14. Mr. Hall currently works as a labor representative for Heat and Frost Insulators. In 2008, he was appointed as an international representative for the company. During his time with them, he was able to work with International Vice President Emeritus Terry Lynch on several labor-friendly campaigns, including energy bills that gained bipartisan support in Congress. Mr. Hall is seeking reappointment to the council, filling the position of labor. Lance Hedquist came before the committee on September 15. Mr. Hedquist graduated from Wayne State College with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry. Currently, he works for South Sioux City as a city administrator. Mr. Hedquist is seeking reappointment to the council and is filling the position of municipal representatives. Jessica Kolterman came before the committee on September 14. Before obtaining her master's in mass communication from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with emphasis in government relations, public relations, and marketing, Ms. Kolterman graduated with an undergraduate degree in political science from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. She is currently working as the director of administration for Lincoln Premium Poultry. Ms. Kolterman holds numerous accomplishments and awards, as well as serves her community by her extensive involvement. Ms. Kolterman is seeking appointment for

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her first term and is filling the position in the food products manufacturing. Kevin Peterson came before the committee on September 15. Mr. Peterson graduated from Southeast Community College in Beatrice with an associate degree in diversified agriculture and returned to his family farm in-- in Osceola. He has served on the Nebraska Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Nebraska Pork Producers Board of Directors, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board. Mr. Peterson is seeking his first appointment on the council, filling the position of crop production. Marty Stange came before the committee on September 14. Mr. Stange currently works as environmental director for the City of Hastings. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science and Civil Engineering. He is licensed as a Nebraska professional engineer, Nebraska Grade I water operator, Nebraska asbestos supervisor, and a certified 40-hour HASWOPER. He is seeking his first appointment to the council, filling the position of municipal government. Amy Staples came before the committee on September 15 after graduating from Doane College with a degree in biology. Ms. Staples went back to her family farm in Broken Bow to work as the director of R&D at Adams Land & Cattle. She also serves the community as a Broken Bow School Board member, Doane University Agricultural Advisory Board, and Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce. She is seeking appointment for her term, filling the position of biologist. Alden Zuhlke appeared before the committee on September 15. Mr. Zuhlke currently works on his family farm after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in agribusiness. He is seeking reappointment and is filling the position of livestock industry. The Environmental Quality Council has-- was created by the Legislature in 1971 as a public body that adopts rules and regulations for the Department of Environmental Quality and Energy administration. The council consists of 17 members who are appointed by the Governor to serve staggered four-year terms. The committee advanced all ten of these appointments by an 8-0 unanimous vote. I ask for your-- for the confirmation of all ten confir-- Kurt Bogner, Joseph Citta, Tass-- Tassia Falcon da Silva Steidley, Robert Hall, Lance Hedquist, Jessica Kolterman, Kevin Peterson, Marty Stange, Amy Staples, and Alden Zuhlke to the Nebraska Environmental Quality Council. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Bostelman. Is there any discussion on the report? Seeing none, Senator Bostelman, you're recognized to close on your report. Senator Bostelman waives closing. The question is the adoption of the report offered by the Natural Resources Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee report.

HUGHES: The report is adopted. Speaker Hilgers, for an announcement.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Just a brief scheduling update for this morning. As you know, the-- we have this placeholder on the agenda as to what order we're going to do the bills in. I did reference yesterday that we would-- we would do PSC and judges. I spoke to Senator Linehan and we are-- we are going to start with LB6, which are the judges maps-- the judges map, and then LB5 after that will be the PSC. So we'll do LB6, then LB5. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB6, introduced by the Redistricting Committee, is a bill for an act relating to redistricting; sets out the boundaries of the Supreme Court judicial districts by the adoption of maps by reference; harmonizes provisions; repeals the original section and declares an emergency. Bill was read for the first time on September 13 and referred to the Redistricting Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with no committee amendments.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Linehan, you're welcome to open on LB6.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. So LB6, the way the committee did these maps is on the Supreme Court, on the PSC, the Regents and public edu-- State Board of Education, we had subcommittees. So on the Supreme Court, it was Lathrop-- Senator Lathrop, Senator Lowe, Senator Linehan. And I have to give great credit to Senator Lathrop because he knows more about this than I do as he's a lawyer, so he actually is the author of this map. So I would ask for your green vote on this. Oh, and it came out of Committee 9-0. Thank you very much.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Discussion is now open on LB6. Senator Lathrop, you're recognized.

LATHROP: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning once again, colleagues. Just a little background: We have six judicial districts. We have seven members of the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice is at-large. The six members, the remaining six members, all serve in a district so that the state has representation from across the state on

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the Supreme Court. As we set the Supreme Court boundaries, we also set the boundaries for six members of the Courts of Appeal. We basically began where we had the maps in the first place, accounted for population changes, and tried to keep each one of the judges who stand for retention in their respective districts. And when we did that, the maps pretty much wrote themselves. As Senator Linehan has indicated, this came out of the committee 9-0, and I would encourage your support of LB6. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I support LB6 and I would ask if Chairwoman Linehan would yield to a question.

HUGHES: Senator Linehan, will you yield?

LINEHAN: Yes.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Senator Linehan. So today we are debating LB6 and LB5, and I wanted to ask why we haven't-- we aren't also going to be moving forward with the school board and the Board of Regents, as we could be moving more legislation forward quickly.

LINEHAN: The school board map is-- we've been working on that. It's-- we're trying with the theme of not trying to move anybody out of their seat, an incumbent out of their seat. But I think there's a way to draw the state school board, and probably the Regents map, where we don't divvy up Douglas County four different ways, because right now Douglas County is in four different districts.

M. CAVANAUGH: For the school board and the Board of Regents?

LINEHAN: Yes.

M. CAVANAUGH: OK. So how-- how was that-- that-- so that hasn't been addressed in the previous iterations or before today?

LINEHAN: My guess is-- I wasn't here 10 years ago or 20 years ago or 30 years ago. But my guess is by the time you get to those maps, people are exhausted from the previous maps and they just kind of drew squares around incumbents--

M. CAVANAUGH: But--

LINEHAN: --which I'm not-- not [INAUDIBLE]

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M. CAVANAUGH: --weren't those maps-- weren't those maps adopted by the committee before you ever even saw the legislative maps? I was at the committee meeting last-- I think it was last week.

LINEHAN: No, they have not been adopted by the committee. The committee has not-- the only maps the committee has kicked out are these two and LB1 and LB3.

M. CAVANAUGH: Right. But I mean two-- I guess-- I'm sorry. It was two weeks ago where the committee met down in the Ernie Chambers Hearing Room and maps were introduced by the committee and discussed, and then they-- it was decided that you would put them forward as committee bills. And the four maps that I'm talking about were all discussed prior to you even-- anybody showing a legislative map. So if there were problems with the maps, I'm just-- why weren't they worked on at that point?

LINEHAN: I think if you ask anybody on the committee, because I don't want to-- maybe I'll just say this and then anybody else on the committee who would like to, address it. I have said since the very beginning that we need to fix those maps.

M. CAVANAUGH: OK. I guess I didn't hear that, but I appreciate you yielding to the question and answering my questions. Thank you, Mr. President. I'll yield the remainder of my time.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Linehan. Senator John Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I rise in support of LB6, as well, and I just thought it'd be important to point out why. Obviously, we've had a lot of conversation about how difficult it is to draw these districts. And I know this is, not to diminish the work that the committee did, but probably an easier task than the other ones that have been drawn, but just thought it bears pointing out that there are six districts here and the maximum deviation is a positive 1.4 and a negative 1.54 and it's distributed across the state. The western-Nebraska-most district is 8.3 positive deviation and it consists of entirely whole counties. And then you have the kind of outside of Lincoln district, which is a 0.5 percent deviation and entirely whole counties. Lancaster is a negative 1.3 deviation, but it is the entirety of Lancaster County, and so that is an acceptable deviation in the sense that it preserves the county and probably would not have been as close to the zero deviation including any whole county outside of it. Northwest-- or northeast Nebraska district is a positive 1.4, and that's whole counties with the exception of

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northwest and north-central Douglas County. And then Douglas County has a separate district that's a negative 1.54 deviation. And then Sarpy County is a-- I'm sorry, 0.67. So basically I'm just rising to say I support this map and that it is possible to achieve maps that have a negligible and not systematic deviation and that preserve whole counties and community lines. So with that, I encourage your support of LB6. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I was accused by a senator the other day of grandstanding when I get on the mike. I-- I got better things to do than be here. But I-- I look at that camera up there and people need to have their side-- everybody's side debated. On this one, I'm thinking a little bit. I agree. I'm going to vote for it because that's what our constitution says. But I'm curious why in Nebraska we have districts on the Supreme Court. We don't have it nationally. We look for the wisest and the-- and the ones with the most common sense and they're-- they're rare. There's a lot of judges out there. And here we-- we do a democracy in our judiciary? Something went wrong, the way we set up our government years ago, maybe a little bit too much populist. But I told Senator Lathrop I was going to ask him a couple of questions to explain to the people what this map is all about. So Senator Lathrop, as we discussed, there's six judges on the Supreme Court, is that correct, or seven? There's seven, right?

HUGHES: Senator Lathrop, will you yield?

LATHROP: Yes, I will. And, Senator Groene, there are seven--

GROENE: Seven.

LATHROP: --the Chief Justice and six--

GROENE: Would you--

LATHROP: --associate justices.

GROENE: So six are-- are appointed by the Governor.

LATHROP: All seven are.

GROENE: Yeah, but six by-- they have to live in a district.

LATHROP: Yes, sir.

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GROENE: And then the Legislature can reject them or accept them.

LATHROP: No, we have no say in it.

GROENE: Oh, we have no say.

LATHROP: We-- I can explain that if you want, but I don't want to stand on your time.

GROENE: No, I-- just short, give a synopsis of how the process works and why we have one--

LATHROP: OK, I'd be happy to.

GROENE: --at-large, you know, Chief Justice.

LATHROP: OK. So Nebraska operates under what's called the Missouri Plan. Under the Missouri Plan, unlike, say, Texas, where judges run like-- just like state senators do and congressmen do and they get donations and they vote on-- on their judges, here, under the Missouri Plan, the-- the-- there's a vacancy. People apply for it. A committee reviews the applicants and sends names to the--

GROENE: Who is the committee?

LATHROP: The committee is composed of some lawyers and some laypeople. They are voted on by, I think, members of the bar. I'm-- yeah, I know because I vote on them. They-- so a committee is established to determine, sort of sort through the applicants, and they send names to the Governor. The Governor then chooses someone, no input from the legislative branch. That person is then appointed to the bench. They stand for retention. So when you get your ballot, you'll see, should judge so-and-so be retained, Judge Cassel, should--

GROENE: How many years is that?

LATHROP: I think it's every four.

GROENE: Thank you. And then is that the same with the Chief Justice--

LATHROP: Yes.

GROENE: --appointed but that could-- they could live in North Platte. We could have-- you could have two judges from one district, basically, then.

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LATHROP: Absolutely. In fact, the Chief Justice does not have a district. And the other thing, Senator Groene, is we have six members of the Supreme Court and six members of the Court of Appeals. They all-- their districts are exactly alike. So you'll see District 3 starts out in Holt County, where Judge Cassel is a resident, and goes down into Sarpy County.

GROENE: So how many are on the Court of Appeals, six?

LATHROP: Six.

GROENE: There is no--

LATHROP: They sit in threes.

GROENE: All right. So there is no tiebreaker in that court.

LATHROP: Yes, they-- they sit three at a time. They don't sit, all six together, like the Supreme Court has seven. They have-- they-- we take the-- the six justices and have them sit three at a time randomly. So--

GROENE: All right, thank you. Thank you. You just got a civics lesson there, I did, too, on our Supreme Court system works.

HUGHES: One minute.

GROENE: But also now understand there's county judges; there's district judges; there's a whole bunch of other judges that are-- has a whole different district setup. I think there's 11 or-- 11 districts maybe, I don't know, 14. And you all probably get a letter from some judge once in a while, or an email: Would you endorse me to the Governor, because I'm looking for the county judge position or the district judge position. It's a-- it's a unique system. And I support LB6.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Groene and Senator Lathrop. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Linehan, you're welcome to close on LB6. Senator Linehan waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the advancement of LB6 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 45 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill.

HUGHES: LB6 is advanced. Mr. Clerk, next item.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: Next item, Mr. President, LB5, introduced by the Redistricting Committee, is a bill for an act relating to redistricting; when-- sets the boundaries of the Public Service Commission districts by the adoption of maps by reference; harmonizes provisions; repeals the original section; declares an emergency. Bill was read for the first time on September 13 of this year and referred to the Redistricting Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File. There are no committee amendments.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Linehan, as Chairman of the Redistricting Committee, you're welcome to open on LB5.

LINEHAN: Thank you-- excuse me. Thank you, Mr. President. Again, good morning, colleagues. So again, the Public Service Commission was also put together for-- with a committee from the committee, a subcommittee, and it consisted of Senator Blood, Senator Briese, and Senator Geist. It has the five districts. It came out of committee 9-0, and I would appreciate your green vote on the Public Service Commission map. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Discussion is now open on LB5. Senator Flood, you're recognized.

FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, members. I do support this map. I support LB5. I don't know how else I would have drawn it. But earlier this year, I introduced LB293, which would have taken the Public Service Commission from five members to seven members, because I was afraid of what I see in this map. They did what they had to do. This is the way it works, folks. But that district right now encompasses most of the state of Nebraska, if you haven't seen it, and whoever gets elected out there has a big, big job because this year, with the COVID money that comes from the federal government, there's the potential for hundreds of millions of dollars that is designated for rural areas. And the Public Service Commission, in my opinion, has to be accountable. They have to make sure that we are serving areas with broadband, that we are holding companies to account, that we're following the money and, most important, that whoever provides the service-- or installs the fiber, provides the service. I worry quite a bit that in the next year or two we're going to have all this federal money coming to counties, cities, the state, and you're going to have a bunch of fly-by-night operators that promise the world to put fiber in the ground and they will be nowhere to be found in five years. The Public Service Commission now has one district that is larger than multiple states. In the district that I live, Dodge County, is the largest county, followed by Madison, followed by Platte. This is a big area with a lot of needs. Seven would have been better because we need

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more representation. But my message to the Public Service Commission is, you've got a big job to do, and if you want to do business at the Lincoln Country Club with a bunch of telecoms on a Friday afternoon and do business as usual, we aren't going to solve any problems out here. We need to see a partnership with rural Nebraska. We want representation on here that goes to bat for us, that follows through, that connects the dots and hooks people up to broadband. And whoever represents that big area of Nebraska might have the hardest job in Nebraska politics because they might also have one of the most important jobs. I support the map. I wish it was seven. I understand why it's drawn the way it is. And I expect more from the Public Service Commission. I expect them to hold people accountable. And I look forward to hearing the discussion. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Flood. Senator John Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. So spoke on the judiciary map and was in favor of it because the deviation was minimal. If anybody takes a look at this map, you can see, as Senator Flood pointed out, the very large 5th District is additionally the smallest district by population. It's a negative deviation of 4.23 percent, for a total population of 375,688, whereas district in eastern Douglas County is a positive deviation of 4.44 percent, for a total of 409,738 people, which essentially means that one district in western Nebraska has 34,000 fewer people than the district in eastern Douglas County, which is essentially almost an entire legislative district. There's-- the other districts are both-- the Lancaster County district is a deviation up of 4.41 percent, and the district Senator Flood lives in is a negative deviation of 3.44 percent. My point of all of this is that the two urban-based districts have positive deviations close to the limit, whereas the two most rural districts have negative deviations closer to the limit. And you look at this map and you compare it to the judicial map and you can see that this follows county lines for the most part where practicable. Douglas County is divided because it needs to be more than one district because it's over population, and that's the only county that's divided. The rest of the counties are whole. There are plenty of counties that you could move out into the 5th District and then shift from the-- the 1st into the 4th that would more equalize those populations. So it is potentially possible to keep counties whole in this map and be close to the deviation, so that's why I'm opposed to this map at this point in time. There's a more-- there's a feasible way to achieve more equitable, more close in line with one person, one vote. Thank you, Mr. President.

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HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Walz, you're recognized.

WALZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I share the concerns of Senator Flood and Senator Cavanaugh. I am concerned about the representation, or the lack of representation of the membership for the Public Service Commission, especially in the middle and western part of the state. We have talked and talked and talked about the problems that we have when it comes to the need for expanding broadband and connectivity in our rural areas, especially in our rural areas. We know the lack of broadband affects our ability to provide optimal healthcare, educational opportunities, agricultural work, and economic development. Yesterday, we talked quite a bit about the importance of economic development in the western side of the state because, with increase in economic development, we have opportunities to see an increase in population and eventually an increase in representation. I am, again, concerned that without fair representation of the Public Service Commission across the state, we will continue to lose out on those opportunities to grow Nebraska, and especially in those rural areas. So I'm just-- I would like to ask-- let's see, who should I ask? Senator Linehan-- if she has a minute to yield to a question.

HUGHES: Senator Linehan, will you yield?

LINEHAN: Yes.

WALZ: Thank you, Senator Linehan. I have not had a lot of experience with mapping, so I wanted to ask one of the experts. Were there other options or-- when you were putting together the Public Service Commission map, what other options were available for-- for this?

LINEHAN: Actually, the subcommittee put it together. They worked with Senator Blood, Senator Briese, Senator Geist. They brought it to the committee, they presented it, and we kicked it out. We did not look at other options that I recall.

WALZ: OK.

LINEHAN: I might miss, but I don't think we looked at other options.

WALZ: OK. Who was all on the committee? Senator Geist--

LINEHAN: Senator Blood, Senator Briese.

WALZ: I'll yield the question to Senator Geist. She's doing this. Thank you, Senator Linehan. Senator Geist, can you answer that question?

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HUGHES: Senator Geist, will you yield?

GEIST: I will. Yes, sure. To be honest with you, we didn't look at dividing the state up differently. We did move counties around so that the deviation would be more in line with what it should be, to be zero across the state, but we didn't look at exactly what your-- I'll be straight with you. We tried to make as few changes as possible so that those who are currently within their service area that were-- that-- where they represent, we made sure that they lived there and that we didn't move them out of their district. And so we-- we worked together so well. We all agreed on what-- how this could look and this is what we came up with. So we didn't look up-- at carving the state up totally differently, mainly because of where people live, and-- and it was quite simple to do.

WALZ: Did anybody from this area of the state come to you with concerns about the lack of representation for the Public Service Commission?

GEIST: No, uh-uh.

WALZ: Nobody came?

GEIST: And since the map has been published, we've not heard from anyone.

WALZ: All right. So--

GEIST: Well, we've not heard any push back from anyone.

WALZ: All right. I don't represent that area of the state, but it is something that I'm very concerned of because it does not provide for educational opportunities, it does not provide for added economic development, which is very much needed, as we all know. So I'm surprised that nobody came to you.

HUGHES: One minute.

WALZ: Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Walz, Senator Geist, you're recognized.

GEIST: Thank you. And I did just want to speak to the map. I can tell you the changes that we did make and-- and our attempt to have the population represented. We added Wheeler, Greeley, Howard, and Webster into the 5th District, which did, as has been expressed, it did increase the size of the 5th District. But what we're doing is having

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to add population where we've lost population, and each of these representatives represents a specific population base. And so because of that, that's why we moved some additional counties into District 5. We also did that in District 4 and made District 3 smaller and added districts-- or, yes, counties into District 4. So we ended up having to move population to the-- to the west. We even had to add population into District 2. And by doing that, we just had to move to the west in Douglas County and added just under 20,000 to District 2. And what that did is just left District 1 as it was drawn in the previous redistricting. So District 1 stayed the same. District 3, we have Saunders and Sarpy together. We moved lines to the west in Douglas County and then added counties into District 5 and took them away from District 4. So that's basically how the map went. We worked together, Senator Blood, Senator Briese and I. It was a simple process. We were in total agreement. We even had to make some changes at the last minute, and everyone was on board. So it was a great example of all of us working together. I'm sorry that I didn't hear the push back that I'm hearing now before today, because we certainly would have taken a look at-- at doing it differently if we knew that anyone was opposed. But we did not hear that, so we didn't redraw it. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Geist. Senator Erdman, you're recognized. Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Sorry about that. I was trying to clarify with Senator Flood about his comment about seven commissioners. He is-- he is absolutely correct when he talks about the size of our district. And it is most of the state west of-- of Grand Island. It's amazing how big that district is. So I was wondering if-- if Senator Flood would yield to a question.

HUGHES: Senator Flood, will you yield?

FLOOD: Yes.

ERDMAN: Senator Flood, you mentioned you introduced a bill to go to seven. Can you explain what happened to the bill?

FLOOD: Well, it had a hearing in front of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, and it was not advanced out of committee. I don't know that there was consensus in the committee. I'd-- I'd let Senator Friesen answer that, but I didn't prioritize it either, in fairness to the committee. But I did introduce it because I feared what-- the map that was drawn, that had to be drawn, was coming.

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ERDMAN: OK. When was that? When did you introduce that?

FLOOD: I introduced it in February of this year.

ERDMAN: OK. All right, so it was just recently. All right.

FLOOD: This-- this biennium, yeah.

ERDMAN: OK, all right. So what would happen if you reintroduced that next year and we would advance that? Then would we be able to have on the ballot in '22 the election of those two new districts?

FLOOD: I don't know. I-- I just read the provision in the Constitution, in Article IV, subsection 20. The Public Service Commission is authorized to have "three nor more than seven members, as the Legislature shall prescribe, whose term of office shall be six years." I think that we could change it in between the redistricting process. It would probably result in another redistricting to make sure it was done right, but I don't know that we could do it that would affect anything in 2022. I would defer to the Secretary of State on that. I definitely think we could do something prior to 2024 if-- if we wanted to that cycle. As to whether we can do it this cycle, it may be somewhat unfair to-- to-- to change it in January and then expect people to still have a district to run in.

ERDMAN: OK, so currently, if we have five commissioners, there's about 220,000 people per district. And if you went to seven, that would change it about 156,000. How would that give us more representation? I mean, we wouldn't-- we wouldn't get another commissioner. It would be significantly more than one but not two.

FLOOD: Right. The way I had envisioned it is that, you know, of course, northeast Nebraska would have its own Public Service Commissioner, or we could draw the lines horizontally so that-- you know, I've always wanted to see a district in this state where Chadron, Valentine, Norfolk, Ponca, South Sioux City had something in common. We all are in an area with no interstate, and they ripped the rail line up in 1965, and we share kind of this common disdain for the lack of infrastructure in Nebraska. But I think you could draw the lines horizontally. I think you could get more creative. Obviously, population, one vote-- one person, one vote is still going to be proportional. But if we could get two more elected officials serving the area, I think it would be very positive.

ERDMAN: I-- I would agree with that. I-- I would hope that you would consider doing something with that bill again. Perhaps we can move

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that needle some and make a difference because, as you said, there's going to be a lot of dollars coming. That's a big job for one-- one commissioner to handle.

FLOOD: Thank you.

ERDMAN: Thank you for your information. I appreciate it. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Erdman and Senator Flood. Senator Linehan, you're recognized.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, am very supportive of expanding the number of members of the Public Service Commission, even though I'm standing here thinking, oh, we'd have to draw more maps. But clearly five and the disparity of how huge the 5th District is, is problematic. And I'm going to stick up for my committee a little bit. This-- this is a bipartisan map. Senator Blood, Senator Briese, and Senator Geist sat in a corner and worked it out. Nobody has come to me, and I don't think anybody on the subcommittee has said anything about this map until we got to the floor this morning. Senator Cavanaugh, John Cavanaugh, would you yield to a question?

HUGHES: Senator Cavanaugh, will you yield?

J. CAVANAUGH: Yes.

LINEHAN: Senator Cavanaugh, did you look at this map before this morning?

J. CAVANAUGH: I did.

LINEHAN: When did you look at the map?

J. CAVANAUGH: Oh, I think when they were first introduced.

LINEHAN: Did you come to me or any of the subcommittee and say you had a problem?

J. CAVANAUGH: No, but my understanding, from everything we've done so far, is that this is the place to air our grievances.

LINEHAN: OK, well, that explains a lot. OK, thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. OK, then. This probably is not the ideal place to air your grievances. Maybe, I don't know, I think maybe if you're upset with a senator, I thought the tradition was you go to the senator and see if you can work it out before we get to the floor, but maybe that's where we're off balance here. I yield the rest of my time.

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HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you-- thank you, Mr. President. I first want to speak to Senator Flood's comments about his bill. And I-- I think I owe him a bit of an apology. I did not support his bill in committee, but it was not because it added additional PSC members. I actually do support adding additional PSC members. It was because it lifted the restriction on having outside employment. The PSC is paid a livable wage with health insurance and a 401(k) match, unlike the Legislature, and so the idea behind that is so that they don't have to hold down a second job that would in any way cause any sort of conflict with the work that they are tasked with doing on the PSC. So I do support adding additional members to the PSC, but I do not support allowing them to have outside work. So I just wanted to be clear about that. So if Senator Flood brings that bill again, I will happily support it, if it is just adding the members. I, too, do not support this map because of the deviation, and I think that it is important that we are consistent in how we are doing our maps and using best practices. And we should be very diligent about the deviation, and a nearly ten-point deviation to me from one-- one district to another is not acceptable. I don't know when I'm supposed to tell people that. There's not really been an opportunity or-- or an avenue for those of us that aren't on the committee to give input. We weren't really asked to give input. And so I would stand with other Senator Cavanaugh in saying it was my understanding that this is when we do it. Certainly nobody wanted my input on my district for the Legislature, so I-- I don't know why I would feel that you wanted my input prior to today on the redistricting map or the Supreme Court map or the school board or the Board of Regents. If you want my input, if you want all the cooks in the kitchen prior to it coming to the floor, I think it'd be appreciated if that was explicitly stated, because we were-- I think the understanding of the body was we were to-- to turn it over to your hands to do the work as a committee, and then when you put something out, that's when we were to look at it and debate it. I mean, this is floor debate, so the purpose of floor debate is to have a conversation and to work together to improve a product. This is not the final iteration stage. This is the start of some of the real hard work. This is when it gets away from 9 people and comes to 49 people. And that's why we have three rounds of voting, so that we can work on it between General and Select, so that we can make amendments, so that we can hear other people's perspectives, so that we can have a robust conversation in a room together where the public can see what we are saying. If that's not the case, then I don't understand anything about the Legislature. I don't think people having opinions about the PSC or

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any of the maps means that they are attacking anyone. It is feedback. It is conversation. Yesterday, I think it was personal for everyone because it was our districts that we currently represent.

HUGHES: One minute.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you. But it's OK to have opinions and it's OK to share those opinions with the public and with our colleagues. It's actually more than OK. It is our job; it is our responsibility. So I'm going to continue talking about what I think about the maps on public record, not behind closed doors. I'm going to share it with all 49-- 48 of you-- I guess I'm 49-- all 48 of you. And I'm going to share it with the-- the people of Nebraska. The redistricting map, I think, is a good start, but I certainly don't think that this needs to be the final iteration. I hope that we can work between General and Select to improve upon it. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in support of LB5. I also would support Senator Flood's change to seven if he brought it again next year. And I quickly said I was going to ask him questions, but Senator Erdman was in the conversation, too, so he got those questions answered already. We-- we need more representation across the state. If there-- if there is an issue that affects the whole state, I mean, not just areas, it's-- it's the Public Service Commission. Maybe I'm getting old, but 20 years ago I could get cell service about anywhere in the state. That is not the case today because of new technology and more demand on information data. Each cell covers a smaller area, which we-- most of us understand that. But it isn't improving. I have not seen much improvement of those areas. I am not just talking western Nebraska. I can go-- I got family in Schuyler and I go through Senator Bostelman's district from here to there, and I have cell service about 30 percent of the time. That's a big issue, folks. That's communication. That's business. And if you're a business person and you're traveling, you're-- you're talking on your phone and you're-- and you're using your time. But that has changed. And the issue with pipelines, too, we've had a big-- most people didn't even know what the Public Service Commission was until Jane Kleeb and the Democrats made a big issue out of a pipeline and kept their vehicles running and our fuel cost low. But I doubt most people know who their Public Service Commissioner is. So we need more representation. Hopefully he brings it next year. And as was mentioned, it doesn't need to go on the ballot. You can-- constitution says you can have up to seven, seven districts. I think we could do it and try-- it's a big

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issue. It's-- it's-- this is an economic development issue; this is also a communications issue, which are combined, and we need it. We need it out in the rural areas. Heck, I can go downtown in some cities and not get cell service because you're in a hole or something. But that's-- and I know 5G is the big thing, but it's the same as everything. Everything gravitates towards the new, to the more wealthy, who want things and can afford more services like 5G. But give us 4G, at least, across the state before we start worrying about 5G, so that all Nebraskans can have communication services. But-- and we're high cell phone taxes and the Public Service Commission handles that. They could talk, deal with the Legislature and say, why are some of these communities charging such a high, high tax, besides sales tax, on top of their occupation tax, on top of a cell phone service, which they have very little cost to the city and infrastructure? But there's a lot of things that should change. And I'm tired of being called the number-one highest state in the nation on our cell phone taxes. So anyway, it's a good map. It's as best as you can do to get representation. Kind of hard to say across the state.

HUGHES: One minute.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Friesen, you're recognized.

FRIESEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in support of LB5 and-- and the map as it's drawn. And if people can look at it and, you know, you could-- you could take one small county and shift it around over here, but in the end it doesn't do a whole lot. You're talking a huge area. And I find it a little ironic that there's some people standing up saying how rural Nebraska needs representation, and yet last night we're willing to take a state senator from out there and move them to Sarpy County and nobody seemed to have a problem with that. Again, the Public Service Commission, it does regulate certain things, so we have to keep in mind that they do not and cannot regulate broadband. They regulate telephone service, landlines, things like that, and so there's-- there's other things that are precluded from them from doing some certain things by federal guidelines. When we did look at Senator Flood's bill adding two more commissioners, we actually did draw a couple of maps to see how that might look. It didn't change a whole lot because the population is where it's at. And, yes, it would have done a little bit better representation up into northeast Nebraska because you could have designed it that way. But it still left a huge part of Nebraska served by one commissioner. I think the biggest thing is that when-- when people have a problem, I think most people don't even realize that they can call in to the Public Service Commission to

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file a complaint, and I think that's something that we need to put out there more, is that when they're having telephone problems or their service is bad, they can call into the Public Service Commission and register a complaint. And if enough complaints come in, they do actually open a docket and they will hold a hearing on it and see once if they can fix it. So we-- Public Service Commission looks at railroads. We talk about pipelines. We talk about telecommunications. I don't know-- other than providing some funding for cell phone services, I don't know that they regulate cell phones, but I can check into that closer. But I think that's also a federal issue. So, again, the maps as currently drawn, I think, are-- are close enough. And again, if somebody wanted to move a county or something here or there, it-- it isn't going to make a difference in the big picture. I know one of the commissioners has a huge area. And again, we need to hold our commissioners accountable if they're not doing their job. But again, I, for one, think that right now I don't know that it would make much difference adding two commissioners. When we looked at the fiscal note of that, it was large enough at the time that we didn't think it was worth the dollars being spent to add those two commissioners, so that's where the bill stands today. There was-- since it wasn't made a priority either, it got the hearing, we discussed it a little bit, and that was pretty well the end of it. So with that, I do support the map. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Friesen. Senator Blood, you are recognized.

BLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow senators, friends all, I actually stand in support of LB5, and I want to walk you through what happened with the subcommittee that has Senator Briese, Senator Geist, and myself on it. The map that you're looking at was a grand compromise. It was not us versus them or somebody acquiescing. It was us discussing what was best and how to keep people in their districts and get as close a deviation as possible. Now one of the things that was on the table, and I hope all the Lancaster County senators are listening, one of the things that was on the table, that eventually we avoided doing, that was brought forward was to cut into Lancaster County. That would have really changed your representation, and that was something that I personally was against. So I want you to know that there was a lot of compromise, like a lot of compromise, on this map. And it was all a friendly compromise, by the way. Is it a perfect map? No, but here's the issues that I have. First of all, I heard nothing, nothing before we met, not from the public, not from other senators, not from any parties, no special interest groups, nothing. The only thing I heard was to make sure to keep a particular person in their district, and that was from somebody here in the body, which we

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were going to do anyway, by the way, because that's the fair and right and just thing to do. I want you to know that when you put us on these committees and you ask us to do our jobs, I take it seriously. And Senator Geist, Senator Briese, and I don't agree 100 percent of the time, but we do 75 to 85 percent of the time and that's pretty good. And when we don't agree, we find that middle ground. So I'm really disappointed, not because people are speaking their mind today. I expect that. But the fact that we had an opportunity to amend, bring something forward and fix this today and nobody brought anything forward so we could fix this today with an amendment, I find disheartening. We're all really smart people in general. We have the ability to bring amendments forward. If you wanted it fixed and you suppose we saw it before today, where is the amendment? Is there anything drastically wrong with this, with the-- except for the fact that somebody thinks that we need more people representing them? That's never a bad, bad thing, especially when it comes to technology, because there are so many issues in western Nebraska that are ignored, and I can empathize with that. But to say that this could be done better, OK, we could move things around, but there are still going to be issues no matter how you move it around, and we know 'cause we tried. But there is nothing blatant in this map that hurts anybody, that takes away anybody's voice, or is going to drastically change anything in the future. So the issue that I have is not that anybody's standing up against this map. The issue that I have is that I want you to clearly understand that this was the compromise map. And I feel very strongly in my gut, if the map that was initially talked about was brought on the floor, we'd have a lot of people against that map. So please take that into consideration. We have so many things in front of us, like our LDs, our CDs, that we really need to take time on and we need to get done in a timely manner so we don't get stuck coming back here in January doing the--

HUGHES: One minute.

BLOOD: --same old song and dance. Have a compromising attitude when you look at this map. If there's something really, really wrong with it, come and talk to me and let's look at an amendment. But again, I did my job, Senator Geist did her job, Senator Briese did his job, and this was our compromise. And that's what you've asked us to do and that's the spirit of the Nebraska Unicameral. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Blood. Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized.

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M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. And, Senator Blood, I appreciate where you're going from there, but I think your speech that you just did disagrees with much of what's happened in this body in the last 24 hours. We've been expressly charged with a number of different leaders in acting a number of different ways, including that amendments are appropriate, amendments are not appropriate, we're supposed to work it out behind closed doors, we're supposed to work it out on the floor. And I say this as somebody who genuinely does not care about the contents of LB5. I hit my light to talk about primary deadlines and filing deadlines because I thought there was an interesting quirk. But we have been told and we have been charged to handle it on the floor, to bring an amendment, to not bring an amendment, to work it out piecemeal, to not work it out piecemeal. We as a body have to decide what we want to do to handle these maps when somebody has a concern or somebody has a tweak. And I say this as somebody who has no problem voting for LB5. I think you guys did a good job. We can move forward. We need to figure out what exactly we are allowed to do as senators. Can I bring an amendment? Can I bring an amendment that only changes one district? Do I have to bring an amendment that changes the whole map? Do I have to run it by the Redistricting Committee first? Should I publicly disclose it first? Who do I have to show it to first? Do I need the Speaker's proposal first? These are questions we genuinely don't know, and every time we've attempted to do something we've been told it's the wrong way. Right now, we're being told that we should have brought an amendment if we had a concern, but just yesterday an amendment was adopted and then got filibustered, saying that it's disrespectful to bring an amendment to the Redistricting Committee's map. Whatever the process is, we need to know what it is and we need to be transparent. And this isn't necessarily a criticism of anybody other than people who are pretending like it's a clear process. Senator Linehan, I think I understand very clearly what she wants and I appreciate how she's leading, but it seems to directly contradict with what Speaker Hilgers has told us all to do, which is to air things out on the floor, in the public, in the light of day. Somebody needs to figure out what they want us to do and what the appropriate way to handle these things are, because I'm getting tired of being told that speaking against a map, asking a question against a map is inappropriate because we worked really hard and how dare you question us and at the same time of, if you wanted to question us, you should have just drawn a map yourself, but also like the map room's reserved for the Redistricting Committee and you don't know how hard it is. We're getting all of these speeches and all these lectures from so many different people to the point where I-- had I had a question about Public Service Commission, I don't know how I would have gone about it. Let's have a clear process. Let's figure it out. Let's move

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forward. But all this piecemeal of, like, how dare you question this map, we worked hard, OK, I mean, it's just-- it's just confusing and befuddling. And I had a whole point about us being the early primary and we're the fourth state in terms of-- or I think tied for fifth in terms of primaries. We're one of the few states that does in early May, so it's hard to change maps in the spring and still have a filing deadline in a primary period. That's what I originally clicked my microphone to say. By NCSL, there's four states that go in front of us; we're tied for fifth. It's important to do these maps earlier, and I'd only want-- like now, as opposed to waiting till the spring, or to-- to Senator Flood's point, it would probably be unfair to change Public Service Commission's in the spring because we'd be, you know, racing a map through in February and March, what-- about the time the filing deadline is. So unless we're changing the filing deadline for everybody and drawing new maps, like, we're probably going to have the difficulty of printing ballots should we change anything in the spring or should we fail to get our business done here today--

HUGHES: One minute.

M. HANSEN: --or this week. Thank you, Mr. President. So I appear to be last in the queue. Senator Linehan's going to get a close and we're all going to move on and end the day. But in the future, I genuinely don't know how I'm supposed to approach redistricting because it appears that everything me or a colleague has tried to do, whether it's an amendment, not an amendment, whether it's a piecemeal, whether it's the whole map, has been deemed inappropriate. And I would just like clear "leadance" from the leadership team of the body to be on the same message and let us know what we can and cannot do. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Flood, you're recognized.

FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I just want to reiterate I'm for LB5. I think the Redistricting Committee drew the map that has to be drawn in this situation and I agree with all of their points. It is a interest of mine to go to seven someday, as a member of the Legislature. And I hope that this map makes the point that I was trying to make, and that is a little bit more representation would go a long way. And with that, I'm going to support LB5 and I want to thank the efforts of the Redistricting Committee.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Flood. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Linehan, you're recognized close on LB5. Senator Linehan waives closing. Colleagues, the question before us is the advancement

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of LB5 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill.

HUGHES: LB5 advances to E&R Initial. Speaker Hilgers, for an announcement.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Thank you for the debate this morning. I appreciate seeing two bills move from General to Select. Thank you for the debate. Thank you for the work of the committee. As I promised yesterday, I wanted to give everyone kind of an update on where we are. And I actually took the time. I usually don't write out my comments beforehand, but I did today to make sure that what I said was right and that you all are hearing where we're at. So I think over the last week, it's been pretty clear that we've all seen the complexity of redistricting, and it's played out in the hearing rooms and it's played out on and off the floor. I will tell you personally, both on and off the floor, I have heard dozens, but more likely, probably, hundreds of potential small changes to all the different maps that we've seen so far. Those have ranged from things like changing a precinct, changing specific neighborhoods or the like. I've also heard about the interconnectedness, and we've all heard this, of certain-- keeping certain communities of interest intact. And those include SI-- things like SIDs and churches but also school district, larger communities and others. Some of these are small issues, but others are far larger. But I'll tell you, addressing those issues, whether they're small or large, is not easy, and I think you've all seen that play out. Many of you tried, or several of you have tried, to draw your own map. And even a partial map, for those of you who have tried to draw, have seen how difficult this is. As I mentioned yesterday, this process is not like drafting a typical bill where you might change a line or a page or that might be subject to a simple floor amendment that would itself be subject to some sort of binary negotiation. Instead, you have to use specialized software that isn't available to us on the floor. It is down in the map room. It is incredibly tedious, incredibly difficult. In addition to that, you're operating with other restrictions and limitations, one of which are the legal parameters under which we are drawing these maps. Some of them, like deviation, we've heard, but there are others. And probably a far larger problem is that if you make one change in any part of a-- a map, you will impact other parts of the map. A change in western Sarpy County might depend on what-- what change to a district might occur out west of Lincoln. So I'll just give you one example that I think is a pretty signif-- pretty significant example, but it

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certainly is not the only one. I think while there is general, although I will say not universal, agreement that one district will need to move to accom-- accommodate population growth in the state, we have senators who have threatened to filibuster a-- a map that has their district moving. It is my current belief that those senators representing district-- districts west of Lincoln and Omaha currently have the votes to filibuster any attempt to move their individual district, and likely-- likely, although not certainly, will retain those votes over the coming days. I think you-- that's what you saw yesterday with LD24 in regard to LB3. And it is impossible, colleagues, it is absolutely impossible to draw a statewide map if you don't first know which district is going to move. So if we don't have the votes to move a specific district, then we won't have the votes to pass a legislative map. That's one example of the problem. I think the question is not whether we will resolve these issues; it is absolutely clear that we can and we must and we will. The question, though, is whether we will resolve them within the timelines of this special session. That's an open question, colleagues. No one in-- in this state's history has done a special session on redistricting. There's no historical precedent guiding our actions here today and this week. And it's a question that we're going to answer here over the coming days. But I want to give you some big-picture context as we think about this. In prior years, and you've heard me say this before but it's worth repeating to put this into context, the Census Bureau has given our-- given us the data in January and we typically have five months, five months, 90 working days, to think through, to digest, to absorb and ultimately negotiate final changes. You can see just from a small snapshot of what-- what-- what we have had in this process just in the last week, why that extra time is important. And we see this in bills, but especially we see it here. A change on day one could look utterly unacceptable; but by day 20, something you might consider; day 40, maybe you can warm up to; by day 90, maybe you're all in, voting for it. We are on day seven today. Putting aside the fact that we're under the-- the time restrictions of a special session, in addition to that, we are not in a regular session. What that means is we are not dealing with other pieces of legislation. There aren't other things that we're working on. There aren't other things to negotiate with. There are-- in a regular session, we have senators that have other priorities. There are more opportunities for this legislative machinery to work. Here, we have one issue. As someone put it this morning, the light is-- is shining on this, this and only this, which creates a more significant issue in getting this done in the special session. So with the short time frame and in a special session, I think we've seen this already impact our process. I can personally attest to the work that Senator Linehan, Vice Chair Wayne, the members

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of the Redistricting Committee, and others worked over Labor Day weekend, were here till midnight drawing maps. They were here. They've worked early mornings. I think I've had a call with Senator Linehan every morning before 7:00 over the last two weeks. They've worked overtime. But despite all that work, which was done in good faith to try to accommodate as many issues that they could address, there were still issues on the floor, problems that people identified; there were struggles with communication. And that is-- has nothing to do with the work. It has everything to do with the timeline. To try to pull these maps together in less than 14 days is almost impossible. To give you some other big-picture context, I want to tell you about what's going on around the country. Every state in the country has been impacted by this, every state, and Nebraska is no exception. Most states, as you might know, actually have chosen-- the ones who have a choice. Some states don't have a choice because by constitution or statute they have decided to-- they have to come into special session to do theirs in order to hit the timeline. We do not have such a restriction or such a requirement, but most of the states that have a choice actually have decided to do theirs in their January session. Some of those states have primaries later than our May primary, and others, such as North Carolina, actually have primaries that are earlier than ours. There's-- North Carolina is in March. A very small minority, which includes us, have tried to accomplish redistricting in a special session, and we decided to do that for all the right reasons. We want to give our election officials the most amount of time to prepare for an orderly May primary. That is and has been, in my opinion, absolutely the right thing to do. But I want to be clear. We are not going to stay in special session forever if we can't accomplish our goal. And why is that? In my opinion, there's several reasons. First, there is a diminishing and eventually negative return to us being here without accomplishing anything. We're-- we are here to get things accomplished. Battling over these issues without any sort of productive conclusion simply just frays relationships, and I think we saw that play out a little bit yesterday on the floor. Second, we are not conducting this special session in a vacuum. When we come back in January for our second half of our One Hundred and Seventh Legislature, we, in my opinion, and I think this is shared by many of you, have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to have transformational positive good for the state of Nebraska. We have the leadership and the resources and the knowledge within this body to accomplish big things. But if we have this session drag out, without any productive purpose, it will shorten the time for us to prepare to have-- to be-- and be ready for our efforts in January. Third, and I think this is incredibly important, if there is not a clear path-- if there is a clear path, that's one thing. But if there is not a clear path to

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resolution, I cannot in good conscience ask you, with your work and family obligations, to stay here, to take time of your interim away from your family, away from your work without a possibility of having a productive outcome. But I want to be really clear. It is by far-- it is by far my preferred route to get this done now. I do not want to wait till January. And we will stay as late as we need to today and tomorrow and the rest of this week to accomplish that. But ultimately, we do need to answer the question, which has never been asked before, as to whether we can get this done in a special session. If that answer is yes, then we'll get this done. We will get this done in September and we will get it done within the timelines originally set out for this session. But if the answer is no, I want to be clear, we will adjourn sine die. Now I originally set the special session to be complete by September 30. And originally-- originally I had scheduled Final Reading to be done, believe it or not, by this Friday, which means-- which would have meant that we would have General File done today. Well, obviously, that, of course, is not going to happen, so I've adjusted the schedule to give us as a body the best chance to determine whether we actually have a path forward or not. So here's where we are going to be. We will need to complete all six bills. We are not doing some and not others. We are either doing all or we're doing none. All six redistricting bills have to be past General File by Saturday-- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. And as you know, we're going to be here in session on Saturday, or I intend to. If we are not able to do that, if we are not able to do that General File by Saturday, all the bills, then we will adjourn sine die. But if-- I'm sorry, if we are not able to do that. But if we are able to get them done by Saturday, then we will be able to do-- have the weekend to work on Select File. The maps-- be clear, these-- by Saturday, that doesn't mean final form. We have to get through the large material sticking points between various sides by Saturday. If we're able to do that, then we have Select File, Sunday, and then Monday, and then no later than Tuesday to work out any additional changes that we have to have, which would then allow for a layover day on Wednesday, and then we could have Final Reading on Thursday. Now, we would, of course, have the opportunity for a veto override. We-- by doing the schedule this way, we're not going to forgo that. If we go to the work of creating maps, we can't have a veto without the opportunity for the body to be heard. So what this means for the rest of the week: As I mentioned yesterday, we did get one of the important pieces of having the filibuster early on LB1 and LB3 is by rule those eight hours are done. So now on General File, we just have two hours left on each. So those might be scheduled as late as Friday, potentially Thursday, depending on our progress, but as late as potentially Friday, maybe Saturday. We have to be a little bit in

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flux. Today and tomorrow at a minimum are going to look very similar. We're about to adjourn for the day. We're going to have short mornings with long working sessions the rest of the day. By Thursday, we very well might take up other maps or start more substantive debate, but with the Saturday deadline, we'll maybe look more likely to Friday. But if we need to, we can go through Friday into Saturday. But I'll-- I-- I do really want to be clear. If by Saturday we don't have General File complete, we will adjourn sine die. But if it is equally clear that by tomorrow or Thursday there just is no path forward, that we will adjourn early. Now I don't think that's going to be the case. I will tell you, the reaction yesterday and the conversations I've had since last night and this morning, I think, are very-- give me a lot of optimism over the coming days ahead for this body. I've had a number of people reach out to me individually, share with their individual concerns about the maps, set up times to talk with me individually, other members of the Redistricting Committee, of all parties, both parties, all members, rural and urban. I think the appetite and the energy is there to get something resolved. So what happens if we adjourn sine die? Well, the work will continue, first and foremost. The conversations that I think are incredibly valuable that would normally take place over a 90-day session will continue. The only-- the real value of having us here is to pass things. Of course, the floor debate, to have the opportunity to be heard, which we have done this week, it is incredibly valuable. But the conversations in the map room, all the things that I described that we can't easily do on the floor, can continue. But what this will mean, more likely than not, almost certainly, is that we will have to take this up in January. I want to be very clear. If we don't get this done, and I remain confident that we will, we will come back in our regular session and have to take up redistricting to get these done. This is a last resort. Passing these maps during the next session will almost certainly result in a delayed primary, and that will have cascading impacts on elections and the election machinery throughout our state. We should all want to avoid that re-- result. However, if we come back in January rather than-- and it's-- I'm sorry. I struck that line. That's not the path we want to go down, but it is the path that other states are doing and it's a path that might-- we might have to take because it's been forced upon us by the U.S. Census Bureau. No one around the country wants to be in this position, no one, least of all us, but other states have recognized that the only way to do this is have a later primary and do this in January. We want to get this done now. I certainly want to do it now. But we do also want to get it right. These lines are the lines we're going to have for the next ten years, far after all of us are gone from this body. If we happen to have one delayed election to get these right for the next ten years,

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then ultimately that's the price that we'll have to pay. If we do-- if we do-- I am confident this. If we do adjourn sine die this week, it certainly won't be lack-- for lack of trying. It simply will be that it was not possible under the time frame that we've had. So I will be here morning, noon, and night meeting with as many people as possible. I know Chair Linehan is-- will be, Vice-- the Vice Chair of the Redistricting Committee. Any and all people have an interest in this, who have issues, The door will be open. I will say, please ask for-- give-- ask for a little bit of patience. I've had so many people reach out to talk. I'm trying to get schedules aligned and everything else. But I would ask for everyone's energy and commitment to be able to get this done over the next week, and I'm confident that we can. But it will take the whole body working together, finding a place of compromise. When this body works the best, it's when we listen to each other as we work through hard issues. Sometimes we come up with innovation-- innovative solutions where we all win. Sometimes someone's got to give. Everyone's got to give a little bit and we can get it done at the end of the day. I'm confident that's what's going to happen here, but it will take everyone with that spirit. With that, I think that's it for the day, but I look forward to working with everyone over the next several days to get this across the finish line. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. Mr. Clerk, for items.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Just one, Mr. President. Announcement: the Education Committee will have an executive session immediately upon the recess in Senator Walz's office, Room 1107, upon adjournment. Finally, Senator Lindstrom would move to adjourn the body until Wednesday, September 22, at 9:00 a.m.

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