

January 31, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Fred Carstens asking unanimous consent to be excused tomorrow. Are there objections? Hearing none. So ordered. Senator Waldron do you want to handle LB 613? Senator Carpenter doesn't seem to be in the chamber.

SENATOR WALDRON: He'll be here. I can start. Mr. President, I move that LB 613 be advanced to E & R for Review, and I'd ask for one of the pages to go look for Senator Carpenter. LB 613 is a...was a...is a bill to broaden the Homestead Exemption for those people over 65 years of age. And I believe that Senator Carpenter, and it primarily is his bill and he gave me permission to be cointroducer of it. So I'll turn the discussion over to him now.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Carpenter we are on the General File discussion of LB 613.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Mr. President, I don't think the A-Bills are available yet. And that's the reason we passed it over. And the only reason.

PRESIDENT: Well, it is the Chair's understanding, Senator Carpenter that the A Bill has come with it, or that we have the Fiscal note on it now. Stand by for just a minute.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Mr. President, I don't think the A Bill covers the recommendation of the Administration. But I'm not sure about that. If the body remembers the other day we passed a motion that in the future all A Bills should have not only the recommendation of the Fiscal Staff, but that of the Administration. And that the hope that they would sit down together and attempt to arrive at a common amount. But if they couldn't then each would recommend what he thought was the right thing. Now beyond that while we are discussing it today, I'd like to make one comment. The bill intended, the present bill is to increase the coverage of the people who could qualify for the reason they would be allowed to take the deductions allowed by the Federal Government. The present law, as I recall refers to gross taxable income. And that would mean if you would allow the deductions you would reduce it materially to the point that more might be available to come on it. Now since that time I've been told there could be some exceptions. And by that I mean some people who really this body would not attempt to cover might like in any law avail themselves of it. If you want to use the extreme in the example you could find for example a person who reasonably well off or wealthy who because of the exemptions on the Federal Income Tax could find himself qualified even though he might of made a million dollars. Now I don't think we want to do that even if it is a rare exception. Now as an alternate, and this is a highly important bill, both from the standpoint of the people who it affects, and the politics that's involved actually as a result of what we do with it. The other thing in order to make it more understandable, and to preclude those people to even possibly becoming involved to the point to taking advantage of it, is to strike the word 90 that now exists and insert the word 100% which would raise the present cost about 10% as I recall. Now one of the reasons for that is we all realize that inflation is pretty much on the loose, and this would make some adjustment for that which is certainly bound to continue. So for those two reasons, and only for those two reasons, I'd like to have you think about this. And then we will bring the bill on Monday, say Tuesday, day certain. And I think this is a simple bill, and I think you people ought to go as an illustration I was down here yesterday accidentally