

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 630 offered by Senator Newell. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 6th of this year, referred to Revenue. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR NEWELL: There is an amendment. Mr. President, members of the body, I will explain either briefly or in some detail what this bill does. LB 630 is the Land Reutilization Authority, it is the Land Reutilization Authority of which there is one in the state. It is located in Douglas County. The land reutilization authority deals with land that for reasons that are rather unique to Douglas County for some reason has been abandoned by the owners of the property. They have not paid their taxes. There is a process of tax foreclosure, a process of tax foreclosure but for reasons that are unique to this kind of property, it is usually an area where there isn't much of a market value. There is a period of time when we can't sell it, and then after a period of years, two or three years, we have developed taxes on it again because only taxes up to the tax foreclosure are excused and we still can't sell it. It becomes the taxes are greater than the actual value of the land and, basically, this bill would allow the LRA to basically take taxes that have accumulated after the sheriff's sale and basically exempt those and sell the land for the fair market value. Now basically here is what has happened or I will tell you basically what is the situation in Douglas County. For approximately a little over five hundred parcels of land that the LRA sells, they have very little interest in anyone buying them. The only kinds of people that buy some of this land is a neighbor who for some reason wants a little garden or those kinds of things. They are not going to pay a great deal of money for a lot that used to have a house on it that has been destroyed and so what they do instead is they go to the LRA, they say, okay, I will buy this land, I will pay taxes on it but I am not going to pay the \$2,000 in back taxes and/or assessments that are levied against this property and, consequently, they say the lot is worth the \$200 but it is not worth the \$2000 or \$500 or whatever, and for that reason this bill is necessary to allow Douglas County to get rid of those parcels of land which hertofore have not sold.

SPEAKER MARVEL: As per Senator Newell's explanation, the first motion is the adoption of the emergency clause. All those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. The emergency clause to LB 630, have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the emergency clause, Mr. President.