

March 15, 1982

LB 714, 790

PRESIDENT: Okay, time is up. Senator Fenger, just as a matter of clearing the decks, would you, the two amendments you had on General File, do you wish to withdraw those and then the rest...

SENATOR FENGER: I'd ask unanimous consent to withdraw both the amendments if you please.

PRESIDENT: Those amendments are withdrawn so we can clear the record of that. The time is up. The question now is the advance of LB 714 to E & R initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. LB 714 is advanced to E & R initial. Next bill is LB 790.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 790 offered by Senators Duda and Beyer. (Title read.) The bill was read on January 12, referred to the Government Committee. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are committee amendments pending by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, there are committee amendments and I would move the committee amendments but I believe in order to understand it I should give you a little bit of an outline of what the bill does and then tell you what the committee amendments are. Current law allows the State Fire Marshal to issue a statewide open burning ban when atmospheric conditions warrant it. When a ban is in effect local fire chiefs can issue permits for fires. Recently this ban has been in effect during most of the year. While under the ban fire chiefs found that they experienced a decrease in the number of false alarms they were responding to. This occurred because the departments learned about planned bonfires and field fires when the property owner applied for a permit. Thus, when a neighbor called in about a suspicious smoke, the department, knowing that it was a planned and controlled fire, did not have to charge out to investigate. LB 790 would make the statewide open burning ban statutory and permanent, irrespective of atmospheric conditions. It would preserve the system of permits granted at the local level. Now the amendment would give the local fire department or his or her designee a way to waiver the open burning ban in his or her district when conditions are acceptable

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