

April 7, 1982

LB 591

CLERK: Mr. President, the last amendment I have to the bill is offered by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Clerk, would you read that amendment, please? I'm having a copy handed out but in case they haven't gotten it...

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill. (Read Chambers amendment as found on page 1792 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is a properly drafted version of an amendment that I attempted to offer earlier today. For one thing the amendment that was offered earlier today did not direct the city to decrease the tax so this drafting was done by the billdrafter. It is being offered to this bill, LB 591, because this does relate specifically to the sales tax and what it would do is just what it said, reduce by one-half of one percent the amount of sales tax that can be levied in a metropolitan city. The effect of it is this. The date that this bill, 591, would take effect, the sales tax that would be in effect in a metropolitan city would have to be reduced by that city by one-half of one percent. In order not to repeat everything that I said earlier today I'll refresh your memory only to this extent. An additional half percent has been added to the sales tax throughout the state by virtue of an amendment Senator Warner had adopted. In Omaha the amount of tax being paid right now is 4½%. If you adopt my amendment...well let me tell you, if the bill that was amended by Senator Warner takes effect, the sales tax will be 5% in Omaha. If my amendment is adopted it will remain at 4½%. The only difference is that one-half of that percent will go to the state instead of to the city. I think this is equitable. I think it is proper and for the reasons that I stated today and the little bit that I've said just now, I hope you will adopt this amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment and I do this for two or three reasons. Number one is it is in direct conflict with what the provision of the bill is in 591 to the effect that first class cities as a result of the Peterson amendment are to get authority to levy a tax on, if they choose to do it, and that is a one-half percent sales tax which this particular amendment would then automatically take it away from them. I don't know how you do both things