

second subdivision deals with groundwater conservation districts and was originally adopted in 1959. LB 554 referred to the Committee on Public Works. The third contains miscellaneous provisions relating to groundwater including its definition. These sections are largely based upon the statute first adopted in 1963, LB 769. Again, this bill was referred to the Public Works Committee. The fourth subdivision is the Groundwater Manager and Protection Act. It was adopted in 1975, LB 577. Many of you remember that bill. It was referred to the Committee on Public Works. Finally, the fifth subdivision is the Industrial Groundwater Regulatory Act. It was originally adopted in 1981, LB 56, Senator Sam Cullan's bill. The bill was referred to the Public Works Committee. LB 463 would amend Section 2-1579, most recently amended by LB 236 in 1983. LB 236 was referred to the Public Works Committee. It also amends Section 2-1590 which was last amended in '74 by LB 975. That bill was introduced by both the Public Works Committee and the Ag and Environment Committee and 975 was referenced to Public Works. I want to point out that there were times when the Public Works Committee and the Ag and Environment Committee held joint hearings, but the resulting bills that were developed always were sent to the Public Works Committee, without objection from myself, without objection from any member of this body, some of whom today are proposing to send the bill, or these bills to the Ag and Environment Committee. Now there have been references made that if errors have been made, they should be corrected.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you that errors have not been made. We have been consistent and I think we should continue to be consistent. All areas of groundwater legislation have been within the jurisdiction of the Public Works Committee. It does not make sense to me to reference bills introduced to protect groundwater on the basis of contaminant. If that was the case then bills relating to industrial contamination of groundwater will be referenced to the Business and Labor Committee, and bills relating to a city or a village contaminating groundwater would be referenced to the Urban Affairs Committee. I want to say once again, in the 12 years that I have served as Chairman of the Ag and Environment Committee I never saw a bill dealing with groundwater in that committee, not once, not once. Therefore, it is logical and consistent from both