

as usual, ten minutes for the introducer and five minutes thereafter. So we will proceed with consent calendar bills, LB 124. Senator Johnson, or Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 124 offered by Senator Rod Johnson. (Title read.) It was read on January 11, referred to Public Works, advanced to General File. I have no committee amendments at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, this is a very simple bill. All it asks that the Legislature do is to extend the date of termination for groundwater conservation districts from January 1, 1987, to January 1 of 1992. There are a number of groundwater conservation districts in the state. I believe there are six that are actively working and providing assistance to the NRDs. As a matter of fact the Upper Big Blue NRD came in in support of the bill. They are working, of course, with their conservation district in their local area. The bill is extremely simple. I do not need ten minutes to explain it. Simply a bill to extend the termination date for our conservation districts.

PRESIDENT: There is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Beutler and Vickers would move to amend the bill. (Amendment appears on pages 990-92 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is really a bill that requires some thoughtful consideration on your part and I hope that you will listen to the general problem and the general philosophies that are involved in this particular piece of legislation. In order to explain it to you clearly I think we have to step back in time and look to see what the philosophy of the Legislature was and what the Legislature did back in the 1970s with regard to natural resources. Back in 1972 and 1973 we enacted the gigantic piece of legislation that created the Natural Resource Districts, 24 of them in this state. And within their particular geographic areas the Natural Resource Districts controlled everything having to do with Natural Resource Districts.