SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the body, the committee amendment is probably somewhat more important than is the bill itself. There has been some concern over the years about the manner in which the Natural Resources Districts Board of Directors are elected.   This is an attempt to begin the remedy for that problem in some way and, therefore, the committee amendment would provide the candidates for the Natural Resources Districts would file for office in the same manner as do candidates for the Legislature, and would in fact go through the primary election just as they do now. They would be elected on a separate nonpartisan ballot and they would not have to pay a filing fee. At the present time, the procedure requires the candidates to get 25 signatures on a petition and to file those petitions by August. This would do away with that and would provide uniformity in the election process. There has been some concerns, as I said earlier, about the problem of NRD Directors, and this would help it in some way. I would move the adoption of the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any further discussion on the adoption of the amendment? All those in favor of adopting the amendments vote aye, opposed nay.   Record, Mr.   Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Any other amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: No, sir.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, back to the bill.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President, under current law NRD boards are authorized to have as few as five directors and as many as twenty-one. The Natural Resources Commission back in 1974 approved the number of board members for each NRD. As you know, it has been somewhat difficult in some areas to secure enough candidates to fill those positions and, in fact, in some instances they have gone unchallenged and those positions had to be filled by appointment. The bill would provide that a current Natural Resources District