

CLERK: Madam President, LB 714 was discussed briefly by the Legislature yesterday. Senator Wesely moved to indefinitely postpone the bill. Senator Beutler agreed to lay it over at that time.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Before I recognize you, I will introduce right now the students who are leaving the Chambers. They are 140 students and sponsors from Stromsburg, Centennial, McCool Junction, York, and Benedict, Nebraska. They are guests today of Senator Scott Moore for the 24th District Youth Government Day. Thank you very much for being with us, and welcome. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. In deference to my esteemed colleague from Lincoln, I don't know what got into me yesterday, and ask that that motion be withdrawn.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The motion is withdrawn. Senator Beutler, do you have an opening statement?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, if I could just make a quick opening statement, again just to orient you, or reorient you to the bill. Basically, this is the bill that would set up the fund in Game and Parks Commission, to be administered by Game and Parks Commission, that would give grants to local political subdivisions, cities, counties, NRDs upon application for the purpose of assisting, in part, not in large part, but in part in the development of recreational trails for hiking, for biking, for horseback riding, for a multiplicity of purposes. And I would remind you again that it deals not just with abandoned railroad lines, but it could be a project related to any particular trail project, whether or not it related to railroads, that a particular county, county board, or city, or NRD might be interested in. I think that the idea has great potential for this state, and that there are a whole number of areas in the state which would develop projects that could be assisted from this fund. I know there are a lot of people in the Omaha-Lincoln area that are interested in a connecting trail link between Omaha and Lincoln. The Sandhills area, an area that's completely unique, entirely unique in the entire world, is an area that could attract a lot of tourists with an interesting trail development network in the area. The Niobrara country, one of the things that local people in this state like most to do is to participate in the recreational