

LB 378

GENERAL FILE
May 10, 1971

PRESIDENT: Move to the consideration of LB378. Clerk will read the title.

CLERK: Read title. LB 378

PRESIDENT: Senator Carstens.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Mr. Speaker, Members, I move that LB378 be advanced to E & R initial. LB378 amends the bill which we passed a number of sessions ago. I believe it was in the 1965 session. It provides for the mandatory sale of our school lands. The bill 378 does absolutely nothing except change the mandatory portion to permissive. This is the only change in the bill. If 378 is adopted, the sale of the school lands would from then on, as long as it is in effect, make the sale of these school lands a matter of decision as to what is at the time best and what should be done with any particular tract of these school lands. This is an important bill and I hope we can get some consideration on it for the following reason. We have the unhappy proposition now under this mandatory provision, where the school lands must be sold and placed for sale to the public so on as the school leases expire. I have on a previous occasion, I mentioned the fact that it is a fact, that in the year 1974-1975-1976 and thereabouts, many of the leases will expire and a large number of the school land tracts will be placed on sale under the present law. I believe in all sincerity that this is not good judgment because we have no way to know now at this point in 1971, what the conditions will be in 1974, 1975 or at any point in the future with regard to property valuation, with regard to finance conditions and all matters connected with and related to the sale of public lands or lands in large tracts. I have taken the time to take a look at what has happened to the school lands in other states and I think this is extremely important. I had the Legislative Council research and give me a run-down on the states that border Nebraska to what those states have done with their school land. It has been mentioned on the floor of the Legislature that states have sold their lands and many of them have. The only thing about a statement like that, it does not reveal and it does not bring to the Legislature, the information as to how they were sold or what has happened to the proceeds. Now going first to the adjoining state. In Colorado, in 1964, Colorado still had over 2 million acres of school land. The land that goes for sale in Colorado does not go under mandatory sale. There may be tracts sold, if the particular condition demanded or if there is good reason for it. If the land is sold, it is sold in almost the same manner that we do. In 1968 South Dakota still had 1,294,000 acres of school land. While there is some provision for the sale of school land in South Dakota, there is no mandatory provision.