

SENATOR CROSBY: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of 239.

SENATOR CROSBY: LB 239 advances. I will lift the call. Mr. Clerk. LB 310 is next on the list. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 310, a bill introduced by Senator Warner. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 12, referred to Natural Resources, advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Natural Resources Committee.

SENATOR CROSBY: There are committee amendments? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, the committee amendments strike the original sections of the bill and become the bill. By and large though, they retain the provisions of the bill but make a couple of additions. The bill itself was designed to do two or three different things, the most important of which was to exempt from the Nebraska Budget Act utilities whether they were utilities such as NPPD or rurals, including rurals, basically excluding all of our publicly held utilities from the Budget Act. That was in the bill and that is also picked up in the committee amendments. So that is the first thing that is done. Secondly, the bill also allows the utilities to select their own auditor and to pay that auditor directly and the committee amendment parallels the bill in providing that provision also. Then in addition to that the committee amendment did these things. When it exempted the public utilities from the Budget Act we also said, look, there are some minimum things you should do though even though you're not going to follow the Budget Act, including notice, preparing a proposed budget, getting that proposed budget on file seven days ahead of the hearing, giving seven days notice of a hearing and having a hearing on the proposed budget. Those minimum requirements were picked up and copied more or less out of the Nebraska Budget Act and made applicable to the utilities. So at least there was a minimal structure there with regard to how they would process their budgets. Then in addition to that we asked for some uniformity in terms of budget forms. I think there will be an amendment further clarifying that provision and, finally, it was incorporated into the committee amendment. The concept that generally accepted government accounting principles would be used which are the principles that are