

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment to the amendment is offered so that this bill that deals with cities of the metropolitan class can be looked at as a whole as it deals with a number of issues that impact what activities take place in the city. The amendment is one, as you all have been aware of, you've been lobbied on, it's been talked about, the mayor was down to lobby you. I'm not sure if the chief of police was down to lobby you on it or not, but it was an issue that you've all heard about. It's had much news coverage. There was an election that was held and the issue was on the ballot. People of the City of Omaha voted to increase the sales tax by one-half of one percent for the term of 12 months, for one year, for the purposes of renovating a couple of facilities in Omaha, one being the Civic Auditorium, the other being a percentage of that for purposes of parking at the Henry Doorly Zoo. The issue was addressed as I stated at that primary ballot or general election ballot rather in May of this year when the city council and the mayor were up for election. It was successful, it was successfully voted on. In order to enact this provision, the Legislature has to give the city the authority to put in place or impose that additional half cent sales tax. All this amendment does is allow for that to take place. I would urge its adoption.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Chambers, did you have a point?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's known that I'm in favor of a very broad interpretation of the germaneness rule, but I think this goes even beyond what I would agree to so I'm suggesting that this amendment is not germane.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Are you asking for a ruling of the chair or are you making a suggestion?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, oh, I'm asking for a ruling of the chair.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. One moment. Senator Hall, I was going to take a look at the amendment, but you may respond as I look at it. Thank you.