

training, it could be in low cost loans. It could be in a variety of ways. And the committee heard the testimony in favor of this bill which included our Department of Economic Development, Director of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, the Omaha Chamber of commerce, the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, the commission of private sector people who advised the Department of Economic Development department and the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I believe there is a total of about 3 million bucks that is designed for use in LB 425. After the hearing we went through the bill and made five amendments, five changes in the way the bill would be administered. Generally speaking, this is going to be a body of money largely at the discretion of the Governor. So the first thing that we amend in the committee amendments is to require that the guidelines which are to be established by the Governor for administering this pot of money include guidelines for the repayment of loans or grants if the receiver of the loan does not do the things that they promised to do. How is the Governor going to get the money back is part of the guidelines according to this part of the amendment. Secondly, it strikes the provision that the principle and the earnings on this fund of about 3 million bucks can be used to administer the costs of DED in administering the fund and supervising loans. We figure there is a lot of established fixed costs in the department anyway. If there is going to be a pot of money, it should be spent for economic development and not for the operations of the department. Third, we've indicated the Governor shall have the sole authority to give final approval for all projects and activities. In other words, it may not be delegated to anyone else. What we can't have is the Governor saying, well, I delegated that to so and so and then when the loan went south, I really hadn't reviewed it. No, if a loan is to be made, the Governor personally signs off in a final approval on all the projects in this fund. Fourth, there will be an annual report of DED's activities regarding the fund. That includes a list of projects and activities, not only those which have been established, but those loans which are outstanding and the status of those loans. Finally, we sunsetted the program January 1 in the year 2000 to make sure that we can review to see what kind of loans are being used towards what ends and what kind of success rate do we have? Do we have any defaulting going on and the like? The goal here was just to make sure that we had a parameter in the future that would cause us to come back and revisit the need for the measure. Understand that for money to be put into the fund we'll have to put it in the