

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

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LB 389

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Are there any objections to the substitution? Hearing none, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hilgert offers AM2153. (See page 1991 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I offered this amendment some time back regarding the aging regions in the state of Nebraska. I think it's extremely important that we have adequate funding for these regions, and introduced this amendment to that end. The regions in Nebraska are extremely cost-efficient for aging. Often times through their able services they're able to keep individuals in their homes for a prolonged period of time, saving the state money from having the individuals go to Nebraska nursing homes, which would cost us Medicaid dollars. It's a very efficient and cost-saving program that they offer. So we're in a position of spending money now or spending a lot more later, that's why I introduced this amendment. There are several programs which would be severely impacted if we should not pass some funding for the Offices on Aging, the aging regions throughout the state. This is not simply an Omaha or Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging amendment, but this will affect all the amendments (sic) across the state in different levels. In a moment I'll have the exact dollars broken down onto how much each region would receive under this amendment. I think it's very important though to recognize that without these funds the Scottsbluff region, as well as Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging would be severely impaired, and their services would certainly be in jeopardy. Most people are very aware of the services offered, the senior centers, the Meals on Wheels, the different...just to name a few here, the home delivered meals, the Homemaker program, the medical transportation, nutrition transportation, the Senior Companion Respite Care Program, the Personal Care Attendant Program, the Durable Medical Equipment Program, these programs offered by the aging regions are essential in caring for the aging citizens in the state of Nebraska. As I said before, this is not simply an Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging region which would be receiving over \$480,000, but also Blue Rivers region, which I believe