

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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the LB 775 revenue loss, which is right now about \$146 million a year, goes to LB 775 employers. There is a committee amendment, which I assume follows this immediately, from the committee, the Revenue Committee, who have changed it a little bit and, as I understand it, have taken...they've reduced the benefits of LB 775 to 80 percent of the original, and allowed then for some of this money in the young farmer program to be absorbed under that additional 20 percent. So they are not directly connected. I don't anticipate taking 20 percent of LB 775 funding and going into the young farmer bill. It probably is more like 1 percent, 1 percent of the 775 incentives probably would go to the young farmer bill, under the scenario that I foresee. So the Revenue Committee's amendment is a little bit different in it proposes, I would say, to go to 80 percent of the current funding for LB 775, rather than the current 100. And, once again, my bill does about...an estimate of \$1.6 million. I will go into this much more, in a little more detail, after we...once we get into the committee amendments. And I do have some handouts to indicate the seriousness of the problem, as I see, of the lack of young farmers starting, not only in Nebraska, where it's as bad as it is anywhere in the United States, but it's also serious across the country. On the other hand, I guess, if you truly want corporate agriculture and to have it run by large, large, large operations, with...totally run by large operations with employees on the farm, or wherever they can come from, part-timers or whatever, I will call it the "Wal-Marting" of agriculture, then you will not really want to support this bill, because this attempts to keep somewhat of a family structure, or at least give opportunity to young people having individual units across the state. This doesn't get into the contract issue, the consolidation of agriculture that we're seeing so much, but that definitely is an issue that's on the edge of this particular issue.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. There are committee amendments, Mr. Clerk? Senator Wickersham, to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. LB 630 has a committee amendment. It is an attempt, in part, by the committee to balance out various financial aspects of the bill. Changes the fiscal note, so if you want to see the