

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 12, 1999 LB 505, 630, 822
 LR 61

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Just amendments to be printed to LB 505 by Senator Landis; and an amendment from Senator Schrock to LB 822. (Legislative Journal pages 1401-1403.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR 61. Back to debate on advancement of the committee amendments. Senator Brown. (AM1108, Legislative Journal page 1312.)

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Wehrbein has made a very emotional and appealing case about the changing nature of agriculture. And certainly anyone who's been involved in small business knows the difficulty in starting the risks and the chance of failure. If we look at all the small businesses that are attempted, the risk of failure is probably as high as 90 percent. There was a small business...a small book store, in Omaha, that, like in the movie "You've Got Mail," closed due to competition from the mega-book stores, and talked about the changing nature of the business of book stores and how difficult it is for a small operation to compete. And so the...the difficulty of small businesses competing with the bigger businesses and being able to get started is across the board, it is not an issue that is in one sector of the economy. But Senator Brashear talked about how we are funding...how we are funding this and whether we believe in economic development incentives and what has occurred since we have put those incentives in place. My commitment to the area of economic development started before, but was really focused during a time when I served on a Strategic Planning Process for the Legislature, long before I was here. It was during the mid-eighties. And things in the economy were not positive, and we were experiencing a serious brain-drain. We were losing citizens, and the citizens we were losing tended to be very highly educated. And if you looked at the demographics of what was happening to the state, it was very frightening. The whole idea behind LB 775 was the creation of jobs. And I think that if you look at the information that Senator Brashear provided, and you look at what's happened since LB 775, that it has been successful. And I don't believe that we can afford to tinker with success. We keep talking about the revenue loss that...that is a part of LB 775. But that presumes that the