

Beef Industry Development Act of 1938...1983 will be repealed and the Nebraska Beef Council will become Nebraska's qualified state beef council. Now the beef board will use their funds to carry out their duties through September 30, 1991 and may contract with the Nebraska Beef Council for transitional programs. The Nebraska Beef Council will make private arrangements or contract with the Nebraska Brand Committee to receive a list of all noncommercial sales of cattle in which a brand inspection is performed in order to collect the checkoff fees currently being collected by the brand committee employees. The bill has an emergency clause and will become effective as soon as the Governor signs it, and as we feel, developed a very comprehensive and a fair piece of legislation, will do exactly what we want it to do. There are some suggestions from various interested groups for additional changes to the bill, shortening the term of the board, increasing the number of board...number of members. These changes were discussed at great length and these were part of the problem that held this bill up for a while, but it was eventually decided by consensus that the changes could be made more correctly through the bylaw amendment committee, and not to hash this out on the floor. They can do this after the transfer has taken place. Now what you have before you is actually a rewrite of the bill and the amendments will allow future changes in the number and terms of the board of directors, if these changes are desired, and this could not have happened under the current version of LB 583. The amendment also includes intent language directing the Nebraska Beef Council to observe the practice of open meeting, public access, to provide producers with the opportunity to present their ideas and concerns to the Nebraska Beef Council, and then it was decided that repeal of the law, rather than suspension, was the cleanest way to go. There is no precedent for suspending existing law. We also feel that if the national order should be repealed in the future, we would have more than enough time...enough lead time to introduce legislation reinstating the checkoff on the state level. The amendment provides that the beef board to contract with the Nebraska Beef Council for the transfer of property, for the expenditure of funds to carry out the duties and to the qualified beef council during the transition period. Although the funds and property belong to and are paid for by producers through their checkoff dollars, we wanted to be sure this is done properly. It is a very good bill. They have brought it to me, basically, because they didn't want to be a state quasi operation any more; it has support of the industry, and the cattlemen, the Farm Bureau, the