

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

April 1, 1999 LB 405, 681

vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 405.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 405 advances. LB 681.

CLERK: Mr. President, (LB) 681, by Senator Hilgert. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 20, referred to the Banking Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hilgert, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR HILGERT: This bill.... Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. This bill, 681, does one simple thing, it expands the amount of...the amount of money that can be awarded to organizations developing our statewide microenterprise development network. It costs no money, it just gives the administration the ability to provide grants for up to \$50,000, versus \$25,000. Basically, the language is very simple. It says that if an applicant for a microenterprise partnership program grant from the Department of Economic Development is determined to be making significant contribution to unserved communities and neighborhoods, it would enhance the act's purpose of establishing a statewide network of micro loan delivery organizations, grants up to \$50,000 may be provided. The existing provisions of the act are twenty-five. It does not increase the amount of our appropriation at all for this program. There was no opposition to it. This was brought from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Microenterprise Partnership Fund, New Community Development Corporation, and the Center for Rural Development, as well. I'll express an interest in getting this bill passed and feel that this would be an effective way to expand the network system across the state of Nebraska. You have received a report, on January 1, 1999, to the Legislature from the Nebraska Microenterprise Development Act regarding the success of the program. You've also received materials, I believe, in the past, in a yellow covered three-ring binder, talking about the Nebraska Microbusiness Resource Directory, and that was a fascinating document which showed the statewide coverage of this effort. And I would