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LB 925, 1088

credit...that credits are taken. The amendment also allows the cost to the business to accredit the child care center and the cost to the business to qualify the child care center for accreditation to be used in computing the amount of the credit. The National Association of the Education of Young People has adopted accreditation criteria which the Department of Health and Human Services and the Education Department recognize for voluntary accreditation purposes. Of the 768 child care centers and preschools licensed in the state in 1999, only 48 are accredited, and in home care centers only 8 are accredited. The National Association of the Education of Young Children looks at the communication between staff and children and families, the curriculum, staff development, administration, physical environment, health and safety, nutrition, and evaluations before issuing accreditation. The fiscal impact is difficult to determine because we don't know how many will try for accreditation and how many will achieve it and so we don't know, and it takes at least a year to get accredited. It's not an easy...easy task. I sent out a report of the Governor's Business Council on how important child care is and how important it is in the state of Nebraska as well as what it takes, a little bit of what it takes to be accredited, early childhood program accreditation, and that also I sent out, so you could look at and understand what these businesses will have go through. In Senator Landis' bill, I think that the child care does not have to be on-site. It can be worked out with and a contract can be made with another child care facility. It's up to the child care center to get out there and market and find the best way, and this is best for employees and the business. If you have a stress free employee, you have a productive employee, and that is my amendment in a nutshell. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Suttle. For debate on AM2504, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, we were faced with a rather similar problem in the Revenue Committee because Senator Suttle had a different measure there, LB 1088, a very well-documented and justified, well-argued bill in that committee which was sort of a companion in that they share the same goals as LB 925 but somewhat goes further. At the heart of Senator Suttle's amendment is this, and that is,