

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

January 23, 2001 LB 168

states revenues or the ability of persons who are eligible for a credit, to claim the credit. We're going to actually eliminate a permit, and we're going to eliminate a \$10 fee, both of which have proven over time to be somewhat troublesome to people. I might also note that the credit program has become less important over time, probably due in a large part to the conversion of many agricultural uses to diesel fuel rather than to gasoline. But at any rate, we're able to limit that permit and fee. I think that is something that we should do if we're able to do. We, as I noted, what you would do is basically provide the information that you need to claim the credit on your tax return and that is, I think, enough. There are various changes in the bill that are largely technical concerning reporting periods and the date that you file and pay the tax. We have developed electronic means to pay the tax and make the filings. That has improved our system. We're able to make some changes in that regard. All in all, it will work to the advantage of persons...to our constituents, and persons who have to pay in the gas tax or have wanted, in the past, to claim the gas tax credit on their income tax returns. There will be a fiscal note, or there will be an A bill that accompanies this, but I think that will turn out to be favorable. With that, Mr. Speaker, if there are questions, I'd be happy to try to respond to those. But as the Clerk noted, there is a committee amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, the committee amendment eliminates a provision in the bill which would have simply moved language, old language from...around in the statutes. As the committee began to examine the old language, however, we didn't see why it couldn't be eliminated entirely. And the language that we wanted to eliminate was language that concerned the necessity to report whether the claimant for a gas tax credit owned a tractor, engine, or machinery that was included in the claimants personal property tax list. Or if you didn't own such an item, you had to report that you didn't own such an item. And that had an old, old origin in our statutes. The committee didn't see why we couldn't eliminate that language altogether.