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FLOOR DEBATE

Marc 29, 2001 LB 486

the recommended student competencies and we thought that was important. Also, in Section 5 we did expand a little bit of the language in regards to the grants hoping that they will be awarded across the state, both rural and urban districts, and if a grant request exceeds grant funding, funds shall be prorated on a per-school-district basis, and no grant shall be more...for more than one year. Also, as was stated, we did add the emergency clause; also expanded a definition of a career path or cluster, which is a new concept that we are trying to incorporate into schools. With that, I would just ask for the support of the committee amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Debate on the committee amendment, Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: I want to speak to the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: On the committee amendment, Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, the concept is a good idea, of which there are several introduced every year in the Nebraska Legislature. I would like to turn the body's attention to the fiscal note on LB 486, which is \$1.3 million. On page 3 of the fiscal note, in FY '02, it has a breakdown of how this money will be used, and \$1.23 million will be used for grants. There may come a time when I may not be as supportive of this bill as I am today and simply because of the cost of it. I would like to...I'll ask either Senator Stuhr about the \$1.2 million for grants which is needed for...and the rest will be going for administration. I understand we need...you need that money to get it going, but is there a magic number regarding the \$1.23 million in grants? And if you could comment on that. And I'm not attacking the concept, Senator Stuhr. It's a good idea, obviously, but it's awful expensive. Could you comment on that?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, Senator Hilgert. I guess you missed my remarks in the fact that we did cut the fiscal note in half,