

by which different political subdivisions can agree to have their housing authorities merge and operate together. Also 435 sought to put into statute recognition of the fact that federal legislation has occurred in this area over the last ten years without a subsequent change in our state language. Now housing authorities have acted pursuant to their federal authorities, the powers that have been given to them under the United States Housing Acts but at the same time the state language has grown more and more obsolete because of antedated references. Those changes were also sought. They didn't really grant new powers because those powers have been granted by federal legislation but they were incorporating into state law powers that housing authorities were now exercising pursuant to federal grants. But beyond this there were additional attempts to legislate some housekeeping authorities that the committee took a dim view of and because of that there are a number of committee amendments, among them, excluding metropolitan class cities from participation in joint housing authorities. We had a big hearing on the Douglas County situation. It was one brutal day in the Urban Affairs Committee and we felt that this was not an appropriate situation. The purpose of joint housing authorities is for the merger of rural districts, not for the merger of large urban districts particularly in Omaha where they have a Douglas County Housing Authority and an Omaha Housing Authority. It was not our business into getting to pressuring either of those groups to merge together and we had a lot of adamant testimony against that prospect. The committee struck the possibility of a merger in metropolitan class cities. We also struck an exemption from the state sales tax for purchases made by housing authorities. They wanted this, tucked it away in the bill. We found it and cut that sales tax exemption out. The committee also struck a provision allowing for cooperation between housing authorities to assist private organizations or individuals with housing projects other than housing authority projects. We didn't want the housing authority to get into the business of underwriting or assisting in essentially private kinds of situations. We also struck a section that would permit the housing authority to function in a manner similar to the Nebraska Mortgage Finance Fund. In other words, the power to issue bonds to finance projects undertaken by other concerns. Again, something the committee pared out of 435. The committee amendments eliminated a sixty day provision for the approval of governing bodies. The housing authorities had asked us in the original 435 to say, if a city council hasn't acted on their plans in sixty days, we'll deem it to be approved. We didn't want to limit local political subdivisions and tie their hands in this way. We struck that provision in the committee amendments. We struck the provision allowing housing authorities to issue obligations