

think makes this a cost-effective bill, is that we have seen a decline of the need for students to enroll in remedial math courses in other states where this has happened. I presume we are already seeing this, although it is probably a little bit more difficult to measure Nebraska, only having been in business one year. But we are seeing a decline in the need for students to enroll at a remedial level at the university level. That is, obviously, a better use of our resources, get those students prepared in mathematics at the high school level, before they go to college, and they are on a faster track when they get to college and more prepared to succeed. So this bill would expand this program to a statewide program, from the 21 schools that we now have, to 68 schools. You're receiving a handout that answers some questions about the bill and a map of where the... the black dots are where the program has been piloted, and the white dots indicate where the expansion would occur statewide. LB 134 does appropriate \$45,805 from the General Fund for fiscal year '89-90, and \$47,179 for fiscal year '90-91 to the University of Nebraska to fund the JUMP examination program. But I think it's a good program, it's important to kids to put them on a career, successful path. We're all interested right now in making ourselves competitive as a nation, particularly in mathematics and science and I think this is a relatively inexpensive, cost-effective way of doing that. I might also add that, being a former teacher, I was never very excited about teacher inservice programs. But one of the things that I saw going on with this group of math teachers from around the state, when they got together, was there was a tremendous amount of professional interaction and professional growth occurring there, which I know is translated back into better quality math teaching back in those teachers' classrooms all over the state. This is important, obviously, in every school. But for all of us who represent smaller schools where you may have only one person in your math department, this is a particularly valuable opportunity for math teachers to come together from around the state, talk about teaching techniques, talk about computer technology and how they can bring that into their classrooms. So I guess I'm seldom driven to rave about any kind of education program, but this one is one that really caught my attention and my enthusiasm and I think it is worth our support. I'll be happy to answer questions about the program. If you don't have any, I urge you to advance 134.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Scofield. For purposes of discussion the Chair recognizes Senator Withem, followed by