

Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you. We'll move on to LB 431, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 431 is the first priority bill scheduled for discussion this morning. It was a bill introduced by Senator Wesely. (Read.) It was introduced on January 13 of this year, referred to the Banking Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, this piece of legislation is built on a program now in place in Lincoln, Nebraska, that is the concept of a match-maker. It takes different businesses that are looking for different supplies and tries to find instate suppliers to meet that demand, whereas currently that purchaser may be going outside of the state. The attempt is to keep business within Nebraska. This is working now in Lincoln, and has been for about a year. It was talked about a couple, three years ago to go statewide in Nebraska. And there have been some indications around the state of interest in trying to do this, but Lincoln is the only place that has actually proceeding. There we found for an investment of \$50,000 we've had over \$1.25 million in additional business brought into Nebraska based companies. This is quite a return on investment. For \$50,000, with this Lincoln-Lancaster connection, we are able to reach out and take Nebraska businesses and put them in touch with other Nebraska businesses, so that we can try to keep the business within the state. Now this benefits the state as we have additional sales taxes on these purchases, in some cases, it helps in jobs and job creation, but at the same time it helps the businesses that are making the purchases in many ways, they're able to find local suppliers that are maybe as good a quality or better quality, quicker delivery times. So everybody wins on this kind of an idea. A proposal like this, I think, is one where we can feel good about the solution. There are no losers, there are only winners on the effort. The other areas of the state that have looked at this have come back to me and said we'd like to get into this, but we simply don't have the resources on the local level to meet this need, so we would like to have a state match to help us with this problem. So this proposal would take \$125,000. Right now that money is being spent in the