

these applications, more than 25 percent of those were applying under the investment provision that did not create jobs. Most of these companies maintain their current level of employees or will increase it over a period of years, but I think it's important that we clearly state that that is one of the priorities for the application under this program and I think that LB 437, as Senator McFarland has it before us and with the McFarland amendment, clearly spells that out and does nothing more than clarify the intent of the Legislature and balances the equation with regard to investment, tax break and jobs. And we need to make sure that we retain those jobs at least, and I'm sure with the investment that many of these companies are going to make, the retention of jobs will be there and clearly the creation of additional jobs will follow close behind. And with that, I would support Senator McFarland's amendment and urge the body to do as well and then advance LB 437 on to Select File. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Landis, would you care to discuss the amendment, Senator Elmer next.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there is an old Hebrew word, "shibboleth" that has worked its way into our language. Contemporarily it means a slogan or phrase, one that's common to a group, a special group. Originally the word shibboleth meant a password or a code word used at the guard stations of armies and the Hebrews would have a special sacred word that they would say that was specially a part of their religion that would recognize them as one of the troops that were protected by part of the army. And the shibboleth now means just sort of a sacred slogan, a way of distinguishing one group from another. In the Legislature we have developed a shibboleth around 775 and 772 and 270 and that is you don't change this package. That's become sort of a shibboleth for the last couple of years. And yet something happened this year in the Revenue Committee, not on this bill, but I want to take you over to LB 335, a bill that Senator Korshoj has, Senator Rogers has and it is one of their priorities. In that bill is a provision on averaging the requirements for LB 270 tax credits. These are the smaller tax credits, a \$1,000 tax credit, the \$100,000 of investment and the two employees that triggers this tax credit. What we found out was we passed LB 270 and we put in language that the Department of Revenue interpreted to mean you had to have that \$100,000 for the entire year. You had to have those and two employees for the entire year and this year a