

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wehrbein would move to amend the bill. Those amendments are on page 1409 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, this amendment, if you want to follow it, is printed in, like I say, on page 1409. It simply more firmly describes the guidelines to be used for the lead contractor and what shall be done in terms of this bill. Especially on page 6 of the bill, if you notice where the first wording fits in, simply what it says, "geographic distribution of local network offices to ensure maximum feasible access by all businesses throughout the state, prior experience of the applicant in the delivery of similar programs designed to strengthen local economies." It's simply a matter to broaden the defini...or not broaden but more clearly define the definition of what we mean here as we use...in this Nebraska network and to be sure that the best qualified contractor is, in fact, selected and that the guidelines are to be met. The same would go with the second section of the amendment. That will assure \$125,000 to be transferred, will be made available within the DED budget and the other phase does take \$50,000, the third part, and adds that too, so there is ample funds in the...in this to be...to carry out the purposes of the bill. I think that adequately explains the intent of it. It is intent to make the bill clearer as to what the intent of this is and I think it will lead to a much fairer consideration by all those involved, for those that are applying for these grants and will assure that the lead contractor is, in fact, the best qualified statewide.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Wehrbein. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I would support the Wehrbein amendment. It is a clarifying amendment to deal with some concerns expressed by some regional economic development districts. We have been working with them on this proposal and I think it does clarify some concerns that they had and should lead to some improvements in the situation. Thank you. A little accident, we're fine ever here.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any other discussion? Senator Wehrbein, anything further on your amendment?