

are following the guidelines, that we want to make sure they are doing the kind of things that we want done in the Department of Economic Development, so we are going to watch them very carefully as they do this. The changes that are made in the department, a number of years ago, LB 965 was passed, and in 965 there were a number of things that were mandated to the Department of Economic Development. First, within the department, there were several divisions mandated, and the divisions that were mandated were the Small Business Division, the Recruitment Division, Travel and Tourism, Telecommunications and the Information, and Community Development, and they also have the Community Development Block Grant Program, and all these things were mandated in LB 965. Under 639, we are going to change that mandated structure and we are going to make some of the divisions that would be...they would simply be permitted to be established, and the divisions that would be established at this point would be the existing Business Assistance to help those businesses that are already in Nebraska and help them, the improvements that they desire to make. I think this is a move in the right direction because we have talked a number of times on the floor, we are always worried about bringing new businesses in the state, now we are telling the Department of Economic Development, let's work, specifically have a division that works with the existing businesses that are already here, and I think that is a very positive move. The other divisions would be the Business Recruitment, Travel and Tourism, Community and Rural Development, and also would still contain the Community Development Block Grant Program. Under the bill, the divisions that would be eliminated, that we would not be mandating anymore are the Small Business Division, and the Telecommunications and the Information Division. These were all recommendations that were made by this task force that was studying the department. One of my concerns when the department brought the bill to me was the idea that we were getting rid of the Small Business Division because, I said, that is kind of the backbone of Nebraska's economy are the small businesses. So at that point, I said I would like some language in the bill that specifically talks about small businesses, and so included in the bill is some language that says that the department will work very carefully at meeting the unique needs of the small businesses throughout the State of Nebraska. So we are still putting some emphasis on the small businesses, which I think is a very positive thing to do. Specific types of assistance that are mentioned in the bill, that are in the intent language of the bill, not things that are mandated, these are simply