

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: I would like to ask Senator Baack a question, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack, would you respond, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, I will.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Baack, as I understand it, we are going to, with the new language, eliminate the Telecommunications and the Small Business part of it, do we abandon any ongoing programs with that?

SENATOR BAACK: No, we do not because all of those things can be picked up by the other divisions and I think that one of the things that I talked about in my opening was Small Business Division kind of bothered me, that we were going to drop that division, so there is some language in the bill that directs one of the divisions to address the unique needs of small business because it does identify those as the backbone of, you know, of our business economy because small the businesses are Nebraska. So that was a concern to me. We do address that in the bill. I think it is addressed fairly well.

SENATOR DIERKS: What about the telecommunications?

SENATOR BAACK: Those operations will just be taken over by the existing ones. The problem with that is why should we have a separate division for one specific industry, and that was the problem with that. It didn't provide the kind of flexibility. We had to have a division head for that one specific industry and we don't need that. That industry can be...we can encourage those kind of industries to come in through the other divisions that are in the Department of Economic Development.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, and do I read the fiscal note right that there is no fiscal impact with this legislation, that the...

SENATOR BAACK: That is correct.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you. I plan to support the legislation, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.