

the way in which they educate kids, to fund model projects. We don't want this to be something that ties into the budget year in and year out. We want this program to work and terminate. We don't want to continue...this is not an ongoing built-in \$300,000 appropriation every year.

SENATOR PETERSON: Okay. I had a question but Senator Coordsen asked on Section 5 too, so we won't take any more time on that. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Hartnett, please, followed by Senators Langford, Withem, Korshoj and Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Withem, if I may ask you some questions. You're doing a good job answering the questions. On this handout, on the fact sheet, down, it's how will the grants application process be structured? A special School Restructuring Commission appointed by the Governor will establish guidelines for the distribution of grants. I guess my question or my concern, I guess, is that, you know, I can...I can structure a committee or a group of people to say that all the money stays in western Nebraska, from North Platte west, that...does the Legislature or does someone have an oversight over this commission that's appointed by the Governor?

SENATOR WITHEM: No, they don't. I know Senator Haberman, on a previous bill here, put an amendment on to provide for. The direction says there shall be geographic balance in the bill.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Oh, does it? Okay.

SENATOR WITHEM: It doesn't have specifically so many per congressional district or any of that kind of stuff. We chose not to do that. I hope the language that says there shall be geographic balance is an appropriate one.

SENATOR HARTNETT: I guess that was my concern is that, you know, you could...the way you structure something, you know, grants could all end up in someplace, you know.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I don't think a Governor who appoints a statewide commission is going to allow all the members to come from one part of the state. I assume that that will be taken care of.