

out of the Department of...or the Revenue Committee and now as amended by that committee enhancing the specific dollar amounts on the tax that's associated with the handling of those drugs. Again, I think the greatest value...we spent a lot of time looking at and talking about the user and the impact it would have on them, but in most cases in terms of even passing on that cost, they are not going to have the drug in their possession to even pass on the cost. They're going to be nabbing the individual at whatever stage in the cycle that he is in, if he is a transporter, if he's someone who is storing, someone who is processing, somebody has a backyard lab, that's the point where you're going to be stepping in and possibly raising the costs of making it very difficult for them to engage in any larger activity. And the extent to which you catch a user, you have the proportionality in terms of the number of dosage units or the number of ounces that they have in their possession, I don't think is going to drastically alter. I think when I initiated this legislation it was really to make sure that Nebraska did not become a haven. In fact, when we first initiated it, I think there was a major bust out on a farm out in western Nebraska where they were growing it under pivot irrigation units. That was a Kentucky outfit and, when they caught them from the criminal side, they literally abandoned the operation, leaving warehouses, leaving tractors and other forms of agriculture equipment behind that they were using. It dawned on me at that time that Nebraska should not be in a position where they are going to even be perceived to tolerate such large activities that may go on in this state. We have seen very large transfer activities crossing the state in terms of busts on the interstate and in many cases this is independent of the criminal charge. The criminal charge is still there. There are times when an individual by virtue of the way the investigation and/or the arrest was conducted that a person may be freed from the criminal obligation and go scot-free. At this point, even though they were not convicted, possibly were not convicted of the criminal activity, we can still extract a certain amount of economic value from that activity because of the civil side of it. The civil side is also considerably easier to prove than the criminal side. The civil side of that activity is such that if it's in their possession and they can't prove they paid the tax, they owe the tax. It's a pretty simple process but I think would have a significant impact on generating income from the drug trafficking activities in Nebraska and then, hopefully, use that money and dedicate it towards helping those people who are addicted, who have a problem and who we, as a society, need to