

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. This is a clarifying amendment that Senator Baack mentioned; again, to restate that the role of the Department of Aeronautics here is simply as a pass-through agency. And to make certain that there is absolutely clear intent of the bill that none of their current funds would go to support the activities of this act, we add the language as follows, "No funds shall be appropriated from the Department of Aeronautics Cash Fund for the purposes of the Nebraska State Airline Authority Act." That's the meat of the...and that includes the audits conducted by certified public accountants. That, again, is to make certain that the current cash funds that come in there are used to continue to maintain and enhance our airport facilities. As Senator Baack pointed out, the role of the Department of Aeronautics here is to continue to do the tasks that they were designated to carry out. We do need an agency for pass-through purposes. I think Anne Beaurivage has a particular expertise that is useful to the activities envisioned in this act, but we have no intention of taking out of her budget any of her current funds to do that. So, I just want to make that very clear with this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the amendment to the amendment? Senator David Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a question for Senator Scofield, if she would.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield, would you respond.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Sandy, I have, obviously, no problem with the amendment, because that is one of the things that was brought out in the Government Committee hearings. I guess my only concern might be, and through your position on the Appropriations Committee you might be able to relieve at least some of the concerns that I have, and that would be, if, in the future, there would be some, because of the report that would be given, or things changed, there would be some desire, from the Department of Aeronautics, to use some of the funds within it for something, I guess my feeling is your amendment would prohibit that, and I'm wondering if we might want to have something, a little disclaimer, saying unless specifically approved by the Department of Aeronautics.