

addresses some of the problems that were brought up about accountability and the changeover and who would be responsible for what. And the amendment is the result of concern brought to me by the DAS budget office and makes a substantial change in the accountability requirements. The first part of the amendment provides for the transfer of funds, clearly establish the public purpose of such transfers and makes compliance with Sections 2 through 5 a condition of the transfer. And the State Treasurer will have the responsibility for transferring any balance for subsequent checkoff revenues from the Nebraska Beef Industry Development Fund to the Nebraska Beef Council. And the transfer is contingent upon completion of the audit by the Auditor of Public Accounts and compliance with the provisions found in Sections 2 through 5. The second part of the amendment requires that provisions be included in the by-laws regarding liability and accountability. And the contract between the Beef Board and the Nebraska Beef Council will clearly establish the Nebraska Beef Council's responsibility for the liabilities of the old beef board, including unpaid bills and refunds due and other obligations. This part of the amendment also requires quarter reports to be filed with the Auditor of Public Accounts until all funds transferred to the Nebraska Beef Council by the state are expended. And the last part of the amendment requires contractual acceptance of the Beef Board's liability as a condition for becoming the qualified state Beef Council. And, overall, the amendment states that the checkoff funds are to be used for specific public purposes of requiring substantially increased accountability and provides for the assumption of liability, protecting both the state's interest and the funds. And I think maybe this will address some of the problems that some of the members had on the accountability of changing over to a nonprofit organization. And I ask for advancement of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion on the amendment? Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Rogers, does the bill or any amendments thereto in any way require a report from this nonprofit group back to the Legislature as to the expenditure of the funds?

SENATOR ROGERS: No way.

SENATOR SCHMIT: No way.

SENATOR ROGERS: No way.