

the governor at that time to set...to divide the state up into districts and to provide...and these districts were supposed to provide for economic development in the various regions of the state. This would simply put into statute the existence of these nine districts. The state would be divided into nine geographic areas, and they would be known as the Nebraska Planning and Development Districts. Some of the provisions of the bill...it sets some minimum standards for...that they have to meet to qualify as a development district. First of all, they have to have the membership of at least 51 percent of the local governments of the area, and the local governments are defined as the city, counties, or village governments of the area. They have to have 51 percent of those to be members to qualify. They also have to have a...they have to have a staff person. They have to...they usually...most of these development districts occur...operate with the dues and each one of the political subdivisions pays dues to this entity and then that dues is used to hire a staff person. The...they also have to have a...part of the agreement has to be that they can...other local entities that maybe don't belong to the organization when they first are put into place...other local entities can join this organization at any time along the road so that the organization can expand. I think that the...what the main purpose of this bill is to...is to put into statute and to...and to clearly identify these development districts because they do provide some very, very good services to the local communities. This is really grass-roots economic development because it's usually involves a county commissioner, city council people, all the representatives of all the various political subdivisions serve on this board. They usually understand their communities very well, know what kinds of things their community needs to...to develop and...and this is going to provide them a statutory framework to work very closely with DED. When DED goes into an area and wants to find out what kinds of things are needed, what kinds of things are wanted in an area, they work then with these development districts. These development districts can provide them with some very, very good information as to what is available there, what kind of employment figures are available. All of these kind of things can be provided by these local development districts. I think that that's...and one of the things...the original bill called for an appropriation and those monies would have been divided then into...between the development districts. We decided that there is not funding available right now for...for these projects. So we have taken the money out and ..and the developments districts