

but what we did suggest doing that in the suggestion box, a concept which was part of the bill that in a bill they had suggested moving up the award that one would be given for good suggestions to \$100 from what once upon a time had been \$25. The committee felt that leaving it at \$25 might encourage more people to participate with suggestions that even small suggestions would be welcomed into the committee and therefore, be analyzed and possibly receive an award. So that was the only change the committee made on the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Conway. Discussion of the committee amendments. I don't see any, Senator Conway, do you wish to close? Waives closing. We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We're voting on the committee amendments to LB 465. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Now to the bill as amended. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, years ago Governor Thone had an Effectiveness in Government Task Force and one of their recommendations was to have a suggestion box system which Governor Thone implemented. In the four years in which it was implemented there were a total of \$7,700 of payouts and they wound up being 63 different awards that ranged from 25 to \$1,400. The documented first year savings, not the long-term continuing savings, but the first year savings on that total amount of expenditures, \$7,000, was \$145,000. When analyzed over three years it was close to \$400,000. When the downturn in the economy and the Kerrey administration came in, this idea was put on the back burner. There was no money and although provisions remained on the statutes, they were not utilized. Well the first thing that LB 465 does is to reactivate those portions of the statute which continue to exist that allow for this system, to appoint some employees to the board as well. That board now has the head of DAS and the Personnel Board is supposedly on it, but they've had no money to administer grants. They've not been receiving grants, they haven't been publicizing, so this would reactivate that idea. That's the first part of the bill. The second part of the bill is to utilize a system, a network of people who can