

Administrative Services, the lease project...the lease process and the management of rental space in state government. Obviously, there's a lot of agencies in state government that enter into contracts on their own now, and there are simply not...there are no assurances and there is no control over whether or not, for tax dollars, we're getting the proper bang for our buck. And there is no centralized agency to try and set forth some requirements as to what type of space should be leased now that that agency can go out and do what they want to do. And there can be marked differences from agency to agency, even sometimes within agencies on the rental space. LB 1241 centralizes this process for all of state government under the Department of Administrative Services. I think that is a wise move for the State of Nebraska, since all those state agencies, what they do, all of us in the body as well as the administration, on the administration side of things, are responsible for those tax supported agencies. I think it is important that we have some control and have some uniformity when we lease space out across the State of Nebraska. And as you can see from the fiscal note, you're talking about a couple million dollars worth of rental agreements that will now come underneath Department of Administrative Services, and so you're talking about some major dollars. I think it's only proper, as the bill LB 1241 does, is it brings it down under DAS. The other part of the bill may have been the part of the bill that some members of the body have heard some about, I believe it's Section 3 or 4 of the bill, that is the issue of the Stone Building up in Norfolk. Basically, this bill, as it came out of committee and introduced by Senator Peterson, there was \$300,000 appropriated in the bill, half from the Vacant Building Fund, half from the...from the...from the other revolving funds in DAS to renovate that Stone Building up in the old Norfolk Regional Center campus, up in Norfolk. There's been some questions about can that building be renovated for \$300,000, and we really don't know the answer to that. Something that, I may work with Senator Peterson between now and Select File, may want to put in some intent language and say what is it we are planning on doing for \$300,000. You know, obviously, I think the intent of the Appropriations Committee certainly has been if for \$300,000 we can renovate that building, that ought to be the policy choice the State of Nebraska makes up there. If for some reason the building is further deteriorated, then maybe we've known at first glance, and it's going to cost, if it actually would cost in excess of that, we may want to put in some intent language to make sure that that doesn't...it's not just a bottomless pit