

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I understand that, Senator, and I believe you've got two more possible amendments to address and I was merely going to wait and see what the outcome of those amendments would be.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Madam President, I'll pull this amendment with the understanding it will probably...it may come back here shortly.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Last amendment I have at this time is by Senator Bernard-Stevens, AM0202.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And I'll pull this one as well for the time being.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Maurstad would move to amend the bill, Madam President. (Maurstad amendment appears on page 608 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, on the amendment that was just adopted, 246 on page 2, line 4, my amendment would strike the words "up to \$25,000". If we basically abide with the premise that the Department of Economic Development is going to develop the rules and regulations necessary to make sure that the Partnerships for Economic Development Act will be successful, I don't think it prudent to hamstring them by putting an arbitrary \$25,000 limit on the amount of grants that would be awarded. There is certainly good consideration to be given to making sure that all areas of the state, especially the rural areas, are provided their appropriate accord relative to the grants available here, but I would certainly hate to see a good project not be able to go forward in the rural areas because of this \$25,000 limit. So I would urge the body of the Legislature to provide the flexibility to the Department of Economic Development to appropriately administer this program and would ask for adoption of the amendment before you.