

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: Ladies and gentlemen, and welcome back to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. We are about to begin our legislative activities, would appreciate the members returning to the floor and recording their presence.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Are any items on the desk?

CLERK: Just one, Mr. President, Senator Robak would like to print amendments to LB 752. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (See page 1485 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. I would announce Senator Vrtiska under the south balcony has his sister and brother-in-law, Andrew and Florine Schultz from, well, it doesn't indicate where they are from, but that they are here visiting Senator Vrtiska. If you folks would stand please. Mr. Clerk, would you like to bring us up-to-date on where we are on LB 425.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 425, the next amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Engel, AM1416. (See pages 1485-87 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Before Senator Engel starts, I might comment that I made a modification to the agenda after some consultation, that LB 871 will precede on the agenda LB 646; 871 will precede LB 846. LB 871 will precede LB 646. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, LB 425 as introduced, creates a 6 million dollar discretionary fund over the next two fiscal years to be used to encourage or facilitate business expansion or relocations to Nebraska. These monies could be used for job training, for revolving economic development loans, and other development loans and for community recruitment programs. The fund is statewide that would augment or supplement local community economic development activities and projects, specifically to provide additional funding that would make a local development project complete or competitive. The Department of Economic Development would administer the fund on a day-to-day basis, would administer the fund on a day-to-day basis. An Economic Development Commission, which is composed of