

qualify for a loan of a certain amount of money, a certain number of new positions must be created?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No, Senator.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So the business doesn't have to create any new jobs in order to qualify for the loan?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: What we would have in the case of a loan, Senator, is a requirement that it be repaid with some rate of interest and that the loan be collateralized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, but there doesn't have to be a new position created? It could be a business getting new machinery or renovating or repairing machinery and not creat...in fact, they could even lay off people if they get new machinery, couldn't they, and that would not keep them from getting the loan.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, I believe you would have to examine the purposes and the overall intent of the bill and I'm hopeful that the commission that would be implementing this would take into consideration whether new jobs are created or whether jobs are sustained.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But based on the law, that is not required, is it?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I don't believe it's required, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And with us having put the \$500,000 in it, we've created a nice...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the amendment offered by Senator Chambers and I have been supportive of this measure, but I do believe that the handout that he passed out, if you look at the second page which is the chart, and you take a look and you add up the sum total of those businesses and the employment classes that are under 100 employees, you come up with just about 95 percent of all employees in Nebraska. So in other words, 95 percent of all the