

Again, you can't have a policy and procedure that is a finding in and of itself, but you can put in place a policy and procedure that requires a finding. And that's what the amendment does. The other element of the amendment strikes a provision...it strikes the words "remain competitive with those of other states and localities", and inserts in lieu of that language, "provide reasonable incentives". On General File, I expressed some misgivings about this notion that all of these economic development initiatives were simply competitive, and I expressed misgivings for a reason that I've expressed...that I've stated earlier. I don't care if other states do silly things with their money, with the public purse, let them, I don't care. In fact, I've, in the past, said that one of the ways to win the economic development race and competition, if you will, was to simply not go broke first. So I don't care what other states do in term of pure competition. And I don't think it's appropriate for this body to go on record and expressing its desire simply to compete, no matter what the costs are, no matter what the benefits are to the State of Nebraska. So I am simply asking that that language be stricken, that we are not engaging in the initiative that's represented by 425 simply to remain competitive. We are doing it to provide reasonable incentives to businesses within the State of Nebraska, or which will come to the State of Nebraska, and by that means seek to benefit the entire state, that is if these are initiatives that will pay off and pay off either through either the use of the loan or grant funding methods that are otherwise authorized in the bill. I hope these are noncontroversial changes. We did keep them separate from the prior amendment because we thought they addressed slightly different issues. Be happy to respond to questions, if you have any. If you don't have any questions, I'm hopeful that you'll simply support the amendments and we'll move on to the next item.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Engel, you have approximately six minutes left in the opening.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, this amendment was...Senator Wickersham, of course, being an attorney and this is really a definition of a term which has a legal connotation to it, so this particular amendment was drawn up by Senator Wickersham with my approval. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator