

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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That's not the purpose of it. It really is a bill for equity. A side benefit is that there would be about \$47,000 in additional monies that would be available for grants to local communities. And I believe you should have on your desk a list of some of these grants that have been used through the years, and it says, I believe, the first grants were awarded in 1997 and these grants total \$4,951,533, and it comes from the tire fee and the retail business fee and part of a solid waste disposal fee. The only retail businesses this applies to are businesses with a...with retail sales of tangible personal property and business with sales of \$30,000 or more, so it doesn't apply to little home businesses, those kinds of things. The Department of Revenue considers a business as that which has the sales tax certificate. I guess, with that, I would just call your attention to the fiscal note. I noted that it would probably bring in revenue of about \$47,000. My staff and I did contemplate maybe lowering the fee if we were to expand it like this, maybe lowering the fee to \$20 instead of \$25. The estimate is that this would bring in \$413,000, which would be about \$57,000 less than is available right now. I don't have a clear preference on this, but I just thought I would mention it to you. Because the purpose of this bill really isn't to raise money; it's just to make the fee fair to all businesses. So, with that, I would conclude my opening remarks and ask if you have any questions. I'd be happy to try to address them.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** There's an amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Senator Janssen would move to amend the bill. (AM0097 is found on pages 372-373 of the Legislative Journal.)

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Janssen, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

**SENATOR JANSSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. When we talk about the small businesses in the state of Nebraska and imposing another fee on them, it...I usually get my eyes opened up a little bit. And we have...right now we are paying the \$25 fee. I have no problem with that. But then you go back a little further and into the statute book