

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 1, 1999

LB 681

encourage the body to advance the bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there was a review of the work of this enterprise program, and I think particularly the rural members of my committee could see the impact of this program in their area. It has a lot of application in small, very small business startups around the state. It doesn't start them up, but it helps advise them into it. And this was an encouraging program. My guess is that we get a lot of bang for our buck in this program. And the committee advanced the bill unanimously.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, I support this, Senator Hilgert, but I do want to ask a question. Do you think there's increased need for the 50,000.... I mean, how extensive do you think the 50,000 of it will be used? Because I know you make a lot of small ones, which I agree with. And I assume that this is not expected to have a great amount of use between the twenty-five and 50,000, because I think it would defeat its purpose if it was enlarged extensively. And I just wanted to comment on that.

SENATOR HILGERT: Certainly, Senator Wehrbein. Originally, when this idea came out, they had assumed an increase in the funding of the overall program. I did ask them about, you know, did we still want to do this, and they said, yes, it's still very important, because there are organizations out there, you know, the state doesn't necessarily make these micro loans. This money is given to an organization which does it, and there's some organizations that have a lot of expertise, covering a lot of responsibility. And the state felt, the department felt that helping those organizations provide...increasing their resources, essentially, does provide more and more loans and so forth. So we're not talking about individual loans being up to \$50,000, but only the support the state gives those loaning organizations that provide these type of loans.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, I misunderstood, somewhat. Thank you.