

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

April 12, 1999 LB 630

introduced.) Mr. Clerk, do you have item?

CLERK: Madam President, next item, LB 630, a bill by Senator Wehrbein. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 19, referred to Revenue, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending. (AM1108, Legislative Journal page 1312.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open on LB 630.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, members of the body. This is a bill to encourage young farmers to start into business in Nebraska. I will have some material on your desk in just a little bit. I didn't have my file up here quite this quick. But what this essentially does is provide a tax credit to a retiring farmer to help encourage a young farmer to start in business. That is, when a young farmer starts up in business it's very difficult to start out with a viable unit, to make a profit as far as the size of the business. This is an attempt to "incent" young farmers to come back into agriculture by using the method of having older farmers, who are retiring, be able to rent their land, lease their going operation, so to speak, on a three-year minimum lease, in this case, and they would get a credit against their income tax. It's somewhat patterned off of LB 775. It's only an income tax credit for the older, retiring farmer, assuming it's an older retiring farmer. The young person then would have the advantage of having a somewhat sizable operation, hopefully that would be a viable operation that would provide an adequate income without having to start from his bootstraps, so to speak, and grow into an economic unit, which is very difficult today to do with the amount of capital that's involved in starting to farm. I'm going to pass out some literature to you showing where we are at in Nebraska, in terms of young farmers. There are 934 farmers under the age of 25 in Nebraska. I'm going to have some charts that I will be passing out that will indicate that in the next age bracket, I don't have that in front of me right at this point. But in the next age bracket the number is down significantly. It's been true in Iowa also, I have a chart that's going to compare us and the United States. The average age of the farmer, in the last ten years, has gone from about 52 to about 58 at this time. And