

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

April 21, 1999 LB 76, 605

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 76 is advanced. The call is raised. (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, next bill, LB 605 by Senator Stuhr. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 19, referred to the Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Revenue Committee amendments pending. (AM0771, Legislative Journal page 971.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Stuhr, you're recognized to open on LB 605.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature. LB 605, as originally proposed, changed the motor vehicle fuel tax by reinstating the two-cent per gallon excise tax for motor fuels containing a minimum of 10 percent ethyl alcohol for the purpose of increasing the market share of ethanol in Nebraska, and a similar law was in place through December 31, 1992. I am offering an amendment to the committee amendments that will actually change the direction of this bill, to continue incentives for the production of ethanol. And the amendment that I will be offering proposes to use the unobligated funds, in the Ethanol Production Incentive Fund, for production credits to ethanol facilities in Nebraska. At this time, I will cease speaking about the original bill because the amendment that I will be offering will become the bill, if adopted. And I do want to say that this amendment has been the product of countless hours and I want to thank all of the senators that have been involved in this discussion. It has involved many of the agriculture organizations and those interested in the ethanol industry. And I also want to say that Senator Schrock has designated LB 605 and I would turn my remaining time over to Senator Schrock. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, been a lot of agonizing done about ethanol this session by Senator Stuhr and myself and it's caused a lot of dissent amongst the people who live in the Rotunda. But we tried to come up with something that would address the issue of what to do with the EPIC Fund and there's been a lot of