

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

April 28, 1999 LB 382

for some sidewalks downtown, in connection with that project. Then they're going to give money to help some bank with their developments. That's taxpayer money. The people in my district pay taxes, and we get less benefit from the taxes we pay than those in any other area of the city, with the possible exception of some parts of south Omaha. Now here are the places where this amendment would take effect: page 1, lines 4 and 5; page 2, line 7; page 4, line 20; page 8, lines 2 and 3; page 10, lines 6 and 7. This bill is known euphemistically as "the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act". I would strike "Financing Assistance" whenever you see it in this...in the places where I mentioned it, and it would more honestly name the bill the "Convention Center Facility Subsidization Act". The state is being asked to subsidize this structure. I want us to get to that throwback portion of the bill, so that for the record, if not the edification of my colleagues, you can see how this thing operates. They talk about multipliers. Somebody is going to come from another city, and they're going to have to sign a book saying where they come from, and they might put a false name and false city, because if it's somebody creeping on his wife, or creeping on her husband, then they're not going to tell the truth. But they got to get a list of all these people to prove how many came from out of town, and they're separated out from everybody in Nebraska. The only ones who count in terms of delivering the goods, under this scheme of financing, are people who come from outside of Nebraska. The only kind of activities that count are those that would not have been at this facility anyway. And if one or one like it had been in Nebraska in the three years prior to the date I guess, when this bill takes effect, then those couldn't be counted. So what are you going to get in the way of activities at this center which are the type that would not have been in Nebraska but for this center, which have not been at this center? And then you count only the people from outside of Nebraska. Suppose you have a thousand people at this gathering, and they're all from Omaha, but they want to help the cause. So they're encouraged to give a false name and say they're from another state. I'd like to ask Senator Wickersham a question, because he and I may be the only ones here...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham, would you yield?