

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

March 8, 2000

LB 1352

indirectly affected by conversion to the EBT. In addition, the state EBT team should have representatives and/or assistance from the various affected interest groups. The task force felt that the members of this team should be knowledgeable about the electronic banking, the credit card industry, cash management, accounting, the retail industry and/or the EBT issues in general. The original task force stated that a broadly based team would help to insure that all concerns and interests are fairly represented and addressed during the EBT development process. The task force specifically stated that a coordinator should be appointed to assist in the preparation of the preliminary EBT planning documents, that the coordinator should also be a member of the overall development team. The original task force was essentially dissolved after their report was issued. This would...this bill would create a new EBT task force to act as a team envisioned by the original task force. The new task force would serve as a resource and provide assistance to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Policy Cabinet as steps are taken to put the EBT in place across the state. The new Electronic Benefit Task Force would be made up of essentially the same interest groups that made up the original task force. Under the committee amendments it would include three individuals receiving benefits or organizations that represent people receiving those benefits, two representatives of the banking industry, three representatives of the grocery industry, and a representative from the state government including the Treasurer's Office, the Department of Administrative Services, the Department of Banking and Finance, the Department of Health and Human Services in Finance and Support, and the Nebraska Legislature. The representatives of the grocery industry would include the director of the Retail Grocery Association, two members appointed by the Governor's Office with diverse size of store background. The committee amendments add that the president of the Nebraska Electronic Transfer System or his designee. Currently there is an EBT coordinator, in the Health and Human Services, making decisions on this issue, in addition to the Health and Human Services Policy Cabinet. I feel that it is important that we include people from many different sectors that are affected during the development of this program. This is not to say that the current staff members at the department are not contacting interested parties. However, I believe that