

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

March 14, 2000 LB 1348

CLERK: So...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's...that's what I need to know. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This amendment, as drafted, would place the match in both programs at 25 percent. I had talked about raising the amount, which is 25 percent currently in the ag sector, to 50 percent so that it would match the required 50 percent amount under the Microenterprise portion of the bill, but having talked to Senator Connealy, I had offered an amendment which would instead lower the 50 percent match requirement in the Microenterprise section of the bill to 25 percent. I don't know what rationale would exist for requiring a 50 percent match on one hand and a 25 percent match on the other except that one side may be more favored in terms of getting a giveaway than the other. This is a giveaway program, and I say again it's curious to me that people who run for this office talking about fiscal conservatism are the ones bringing these giveaway programs, tax break programs for small, special carved-out interest groups. When people see the opportunity to latch onto some cash, they're going to take advantage of the opportunity and that I understand, especially in a political setting. But before I offer other amendments that might seem like they are aimed at dismantling the bill, I'm going to present this one which I think does not really do anything that would be considered harmful to the bill. What it would do is let those people who get these little piddling \$5,000 handouts under the Microenterprise operation come up with only 25 percent match as the ones who get the bigger amounts of taxpayer money to subsidize their lack of ability to earn a living in their chosen business. So now I'm going to focus on the amendment because I did my general discussing. There are two segments to this bill. One is aimed at the ag or rural sector, the other I think was tacked on, Microenterprise, to kind of draw some of the urban people in. Under the ag sector, they only have to come up with a 25 percent match, either in cash or a combination of cash and in-kind services. With the Microenterprise, the way the amendment is drafted that would deal with them, they would have to come up with twice that amount in matching, 50 percent. So what I want to do is at least make the two the same when it comes to the matching amount. Rather than raise the ag sector to 50 percent to match the micro section, I'm dropping the micro to 25 percent to match