

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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that it might not all be spent in the first year or two of its existence, the rural opportunities, and so this would let that stretch that money out over time. If they ran out, so be it, in that time, but this does let that grant program go and I think this...this is an ample time, so I support the amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close. Senator Beutler waives closing. The question is the adoption of AM2792 to the committee amendments. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would offer AM2790. (Legislative Journal page 1033.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, perk up just a little bit, this is not a technical amendment. It represents, I don't know whether to call it philosophy or I think it represents in my mind what I think is more efficient and better government. But what this amendment would do, essentially, this program, this economic development program is under, according to the bill, the Department of Agriculture, and what I would do would be to change it to the Department of Economic Development, and let me give you my rationale. In state government, we have obviously created a unit called the Department of Economic Development, and it seems to me that when that was first created, the idea must have been that everything that had to do with economic development should be run by that department and that the reason for that would be that then they would have a handle on all of the different kinds of economic development programs and, thus, avoid the confusion, the contradiction, and some of the inefficiencies and really bad stories of developing government because bureaucracies have not communicated with one another. And so the logic of the way we've set up all of this government is for the Department of Economic Development to run