

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

March 29, 2000 LB 1222, 1348

be \$1 million left; \$250,000 which will go for the value-added initiative that Senator Vrtiska had; \$250,000 will be dedicated to the entrepreneur side of the bill that I had; and \$500,000, so to speak, in the middle, can go either way depending on the demand for the funds. So it will be one pool of money, but the...depending on the interest in the bill and the areas that are of interest, there will be guaranteed the \$250,000 for the entrepreneur, \$250,000 for the value-added part of it, but there can be...the middle \$500,000, so to speak, if you look at that way, will be for whichever there is most demand for. I believe that it meets the needs that Senator Vrtiska and I originally intended to do, way back in January. And so I would urge your support for this. And that's all I will have to say in my opening. And if there's questions, I'll be happy to entertain them. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Debate on the Wehrbein amendment? Senator Connealy, followed by Vrtiska and Dierks.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you. I rise in support of the amendment. I want to thank the senators for working together to put these two bills together. As Senator Wehrbein said, it's \$1 million; \$250,000 for...that would be targeted at the Ag Opportunity Act, \$250,000 that would be targeted at the value-added that we'd had in LB 1222, and also half a million dollars that could go either way. It's a three-year program with a sunset of January 1, 2004. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Yes, I am pleased that we were able to come to an agreement. I appreciate the work that Senator Wehrbein has done, the work that Senator Connealy has done, and others who helped us to put this together. In a sense, they're alike, and yet they're not. But as a result, we came up with a package that we think is workable. In fact, we're sure it's workable. And the other parts that you've already heard the other speakers talk to you about, how it works and how it will work, we...I need to add that this will be under...working with the Department of Agriculture, will be the primary agent. The