

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

March 29, 2000 LB 1348

SENATOR CROSBY: The Wehrbein...the amendment is adopted.
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Kiel would move to amend, Madam President.
(AM3009, Legislative Journal page 1223.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Kiel.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. My amendment to...this amendment to LB 1348 would add a smaller grant program to LB 1348. And what this particular grant program would do would be to allow individual neighborhood groups and small communities and small rural communities to qualify for grants specifically for community development. This is a companion program to meet the needs of small initiatives. It is intended to provide the necessary tools for smaller projects that are more local in nature. The applicants must document a match equivalent in money or in-kind equal to the following scale. They must make a match of 25 percent for a maximum grant of \$5,000; 26 to 49 percent for a maximum grant of \$7,500; and 50 percent or more for a maximum grant of \$10,000. Now, the purpose of this is to revitalize declining neighborhoods and rural communities. It's intended to maintain the integrity of stable, viable neighborhoods in rural communities, and also to strengthen existing neighborhoods in rural communities. You should have a handout right now which is a section-by-section summary of this amendment. It contains the complete provisions of the committee amendment. But we checked with bill drafters, and this amendment is appropriately attached also to the amendment that just passed. This particular initiative is intended to be very simple. Many times, the state and federal development programs are extremely complicated, which undermines the value of the assistance received. It is flexible, so that the local people who are matching with their own resources qualifying for assistance and make good decisions on a local level. It does provide maximum flexibility, as well as extensive oversight through monitoring and evaluation. The way that we decided would be appropriate for this particular grant program to be administered would be through the University of Nebraska at Lincoln's College of Architecture, who already provides oversight for a number of community improvement programs right now, such as the Urban Community Improvement