

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

March 29, 2000 LB 1348

listening.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Discussion on the amendment? Senator Hilgert, followed by Redfield, Kiel, Wehrbein, and Aguilar. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Madam President, members. I have a question for Senator Kiel. It was said that this money, the \$50,000, would not increase the amount. But it would basically take it from money that's already in LB 1348.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Kiel.

SENATOR HILGERT: Is that correct?

SENATOR KIEL: Yes. What it would do is, there's an amount of money that's allocated to the Department of Economic Development. What this would do is simply direct that \$50,000 of that amount of money would be put into this particular fund to provide for the grants.

SENATOR HILGERT: So the amount that's the Department of Economic Development, is that money going currently for microenterprise and small business development?

SENATOR KIEL: That's my understanding, that that's where it has been directed before.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay. So there'd be \$50,000 less for small enterprise development. Is that correct?

SENATOR KIEL: Yes.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay. Thank you. As you know, I've been a big advocate of microenterprise in this state. And it has...it's the fastest growing part of our job sector in this state. And I think that is where our commitment should be. Frankly, small businesses, microenterprise, has developed more jobs and the quality of life, and has given hope to more families in this state than some of the high-profile attempts to get some of these major corporations to locate here. So I'm a firm advocate of that. That being said though, this bill has