

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

March 30, 2000 LB 495

representatives from labor were involved in it, but also private employers and the Department of Economic Development. The difference in Senator Stuhr's bill, it was primarily just involved in the Department of Education, so there was a...

SENATOR BOHLKE: So if we would run an amendment and include those and put it back in and put the \$1.5 million back in, do you think the Governor would support it?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: I can't speak for the Governor.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Stuhr, on the amendment, AM3193.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I have appreciated the discussion thus far on this area. I do support that we have a task force that we can look at these areas in more detail. Yes, I'm very disappointed that we seem to be able to find money in other areas and I feel that this is a high priority and should be a high priority for students undertaking many of these classes. You know, many times students come to school and I believe very strongly in having the academics. But they need an opportunity to apply those academics in real life. They need the opportunity. I was just reading an article in the paper last week. It said striving to balance work and family and community, and those are the kinds of things that students gain skills in, in middle school and in high school, in preparing themselves, not only for family responsibilities, but also work responsibilities. And I often think that we've done not exactly the appropriate things in some of our high schools in dropping out some of those vocational and technical classes, because it does help prepare students for the future and it does help prepare them for the workplace. I would say probably, I don't know what the percentage of students that do go on to college that work, but I would say it's at least three-fourths, at least 75 percent. And I don't know why we get the idea that we don't need to prepare students for the real world which is family, work, and community. And that's why I'm going to continue to work on this issue. I also believe that, if students have an opportunity to explore careers in middle and their high school, that we could possibly keep more of our young people in Nebraska if they