

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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in the econ...in an effort to economize our time, I did attempt to describe the committee amendment in the context of the bill itself. Primarily the committee amendment, as I've indicated, does strip out the changes that were proposed for the NRDs, both the increased funding and a change in the methodology by which any funds in their aid pool would be distributed. What we do keep in the committee amendment is what I've characterized as a gross up provision and that would allow NRDs to make up for any loss of fertilizer fee revenues that they might have. The committee amendment also provided for rules and regulations and...but I don't think that was a significant component. But the primary issue in the committee amendments, members of the body, was the removal of all the provisions that would have changed the NRD distribution formula, change the amount that would be distributed through the formula back to the amount that it was, not proposing any increase in that fund. Those are the primary changes in the committee amendment. I would suggest to you that that is proposed to you by the committee because we were unable to reach a consensus about how to modify the aid distribution formula for NRDs. The current formula is based on a fixed amount of dollars, \$2.3 million, that \$2.3 million is then allocated out to NRDs, based on a ratio which is the total amount of taxes that...a specific NRD asks for as compared to the total taxes for all NRDs in the state. So the result is that the bigger your tax bill, the more state aid you get from Nebraska, from the state of Nebraska under that aid pool. I believe very firmly that that is an inappropriate distribution formula and will expect that a proposal will be brought to you next year to modify that proposal. We simply weren't able to reach agreement on that this year, so we're taking that provision out.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Mr. Clerk, item to the bill or committee amendments?

CLERK: Senator Wickersham, I now have, Senator, AM3187, which is drafted as an amendment to the committee amendments, AM3187. (Legislative Journal page 1463.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wickersham, to open on the amendment, AM3187 to the committee amendments to LB 1138.