

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

April 6, 2000

LB 925

a credit of expenses for staff, materials, equipment, and the construction and maintenance of a facility. Oregon has a tax credit to an employer who constructs, renovates, or otherwise improves real estate to be used primarily as a child-care facility. And Texas allows a credit of up to 50 percent for operating, constructing, renovating, purchasing childcare from a child-care center or registered family child-care home. Remember, that was operating, constructing, renovating and purchasing. In other words, we're not into blue sky here. The list in this bill is at least modest compared to what other states are doing. I have to say in candor that even though there are states that have these tax credits there has not been a wholesale...whole scale rush to providing on-site childcare. It's happening. It's happening slowly. This is an incentive. It's why this is not going to break the bank and, in fact, the fiscal estimates I think are overstated. But it will be helpful and it does need to be potent to be effective. Senator Wickersham's amendment makes it less potent. I agree mine is more generous. I think it's appropriate certainly against the yardstick of other states who have entered this fray. It is certainly not overly generous compared to that yardstick and I would ask for the rejection of the Wickersham amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Jensen, on the amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This issue is troubling to me from a fairness standpoint. First of all, I don't know how many child-care facilities we have in the state of Nebraska. I'm going to estimate somewhere around 6,000 of those child-care facilities. How many of those private facilities receive a tax credit for improvements to their properties or to build their properties? And as much as I certainly wish to do what I can for my business associates, I wonder where the fairness issue comes up here in that we will allow a business to do improvements, provide a child-care center and then take tax credits for doing that when, if we were to provide a tax credit for private industry to either start up or to build child-care facilities, we might see a large proliwer...proliferation, hard to do on an afternoon, of child-care facilities. And I think that we as a body need to be fair with all our citizens, with those who contract either