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compensation. The assessment was only temporary, and was supposed to be adequate for a base for the program to be self-sustaining with fees. The amount of assessment should have had the...if we reinstate this amount, it should be about \$840,000 annually. This would bring the program up to a level that's intended to be...and it would fairly be divided among all insure...all people who contract for workers' compensation insurance. A survey was done over an interim by the Business and Labor Committee, and...as part of a study on the resolution. And it showed that there was a high level of satisfaction with this program, except for the fact that people were worried about the fees, had complained about the cost of being inspected. They were happy with the amount of knowledge they gained by the program. They were happy with the idea that it was not a program that fined them for violations, but helped them improve those violations. But they didn't like the fees. So over time, businesses complained to the Department of Labor. We lowered those fees. And those fees did not sustain the program and the operation of it. Discussions were held on LR 105 at meetings in the fall of 2001, regarding the fact that the inspection program was going to run out of funding. The original plan of the Business and Labor Committee and interested parties was to look at funding the program through a mixture of inspection fees and assessments on insurance. The administration decided that at that time it desired not to assess the cost of insurance the industry. So they didn't want to do this. And I understand that. It is a tax increase. So the plan was to increase fees. We did that, and the increase of fees didn't come in time to save this program. Department of Labor has eight full-time inspectors and consultants in position. And they do 561 inspections. Those were done last year. The budget for this fiscal year for the whole program is \$745,000. This program is worth saving. It prevents injuries. It makes the workplace safer. It helps keep down the cost of workers' compensation. So I don't feel that workers' compensation insurance premiums are going to be affected over the long term. Workers' compensation insurance here in Nebraska is lower because of this program. And I think over time they'll stay lower, even though we do add a premium tax. This is, I believe, a fair way to fund this worker safety program, a program that is pretty well universally accepted as a program that does a good job. I