

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

April 23, 2003 LB 368, 759

to work with people on it. But the practical matter of this bill is...or, the amendment as we're debating it now, is...as a retailer, I'm one of those people too. We have a real problem out there with clerks saying, well,...and a lot of them, they're 19-, 20-year-old clerks. And you turn your store over to them, and you compare what was sold in the log on the deli part of it, whether it's soups or sandwiches or pizzas, or whatever it is, potato bar issues, and you look at what they sold over there, and then you go compare it to what's on the computer under deli, and it doesn't add up. But our snacks, our potato chip sales, might have been really high. And obviously, there's no sales tax on potato chips in a package. But there is sales tax on that food that's prepared. And it's...administratively, it's just a nightmare. If the Department of Revenue wants to come out and audit us, that would be fine. We could try and figure some better system out. But what I'm saying is it doesn't work very well right now. If we could get some uniformity into it and simply put the tax on all food, I think that would be, in the long term, a solution to our problem. Whether we'd have to provide some tax credits and so on, I'm willing to work with people on that. But that is an alternative that's out there I want to make people aware of. The bill is in Revenue Committee. I believe it's LB 368. So I think that might be an answer. If this thing does move in its present form, I'd propose doing that on Select File. Back to this specific amendment. Senator Landis,...and I do have an amendment, actually two amendments, filed to this amendment, clarifying some issues dealing with definition of livestock. I think this...I'm going to support this amendment. But I think there are things need to be done to it to provide some more clarity. As Senator Landis, I believe, pointed out, there was a letter from the Department of Revenue that may have just been cc'd to Revenue Committee members, and it said, we have problems with definitions on this, this, and this. Hence, the amendment we're discussing now tried to clarify some of those issues pointed out by Department of Revenue. I for one do not want to get back into the situation we had when we passed LB 1085 and we had numerous interpretations of what it was we intended to do, lack of hearings on developing the regulations. And I am still getting calls on lawn care services. To this day, I'm still getting calls on them, what's taxed and what's not. There seems to be