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FLOOR DEBATE

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workers' comp, people who are beating the income tax system, people who have come into this state, do business in Nebraska and go home. We don't have much problem in this state with tax compliance. We have a relatively high taxpayer compliance from Nebraska citizens. Where that breaks down are from people who...from out of state who come in, do business, go home, have an obligation to report income they earned in Nebraska, and they don't do it. The Revenue Committee advanced, LB 80, a bill to get to that problem. It's a tax amnesty program and the tax amnesty program says this: Look, if you're a nonfiler, you've owed us money, you owed us money, you were supposed to pay us but you've been flying under the radar, you have a window of opportunity from August 1 to October 1 of 2004 to pay. File, pay your tax, and we won't hit you with penalty or interest. It has to be a one-time operation. You can't get people addicted to the idea of ongoing amnesty programs. Senator Redfield tells the story that in her city there is a library amnesty they once did; brought back in a whole lot of books, brought back in a lot of people who, you know, brought themselves up to date. However, to this day, she says, apparently there are still people holding on to library books waiting for the next tax amnesty. Well, they had...or library fee amnesty. They've had one in 40 years in her community but there are people holding on for books waiting for the next one. So there is a downside to doing an amnesty. However, we genuinely believe, as does our Revenue Department, that there are people who have earned money in Nebraska who owe us taxes and who are not paying those taxes but are going home without paying them. The Revenue Department does not believe that there is a large number of people in this state who are beating Nebraska taxes, although in the construction field there is some evidence, anecdotal, that that's true about Nebraska taxpayers. But there are people from out of state doing this. The program will cost 280,000 bucks. It will raise \$6 million to the best of our knowledge. That's our best effort, if you were to take a look at this, it raises \$6 million. The \$6 million needs to be seen as one-time money. That's not ongoing. But there is an ongoing basis and that is that 20 percent of the money we raise is available to send back to the Department of Revenue for more auditors so that we will strengthen our tax compliance area. If we're going to get people who are beating us for taxes, we need auditors to do