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assessment. It creates the Nebraska Beef Industry Cash Fund, administered by the Department of Agriculture. It authorizes the director to contract with a qualified state beef council, under federal program, to implement the program. As I mentioned before, I think it was in 1991, our state agency, which is our Beef Council, was designated as a qualified agency to collect those funds. And since that is in place and it's...the board is all producers, that it would appropriate that we would continue that. Department then would contract with them. It authorizes the director to contract with them. The current qualified state beef council is the Nebraska Beef Council, based in Kearney. It's a board of directors, as I said, directed...or, elected by directors. It is legally and functionally separate from other industry trade groups or advocacy groups. It's a nonprofit, but it's not associated with the different groups. Section 5, it prescribes terms, accountability, and other contractual delegation to the Beef Council.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KREMER: They're required to give an annual prepared budget to the director for review. They maintain books and records open for inspection. It's submit an annual report. They continue organization government by the board of directors, elected by producers, any other terms also deemed appropriate to assure the duties of the Beef Council are carried out correctly. Section 7 designates how the refunds are to be made. And I will have...that will be changed a little bit in the committee amendments that we have. But at this time, it would be refunds made on a quarterly basis. But that will be changed. The effective date was...in the bill, states that it will become operative 30 days. If the national checkoff program is declared unconstitutional, then this would kick in 30 days after the assessments cease. Section 6 gives authority to begin developing the regulations upon the enactment of the bill. So if we would pass this bill...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you.