

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

May 10, 2005

LB 500

that could be very good from a tourism standpoint. And we are one of the states...we are the 49th state in state spending to promote tourism. One of the concerns I have about this bill, I think it does a lot for the specific project. I would like to see a small aspect of it, a little bit of the recapture, directed towards promotion of tourism more generally than just this, the one project. But I wondered if Senator Landis would answer a couple of questions, and I would yield my...the rest of my time to him to answer the questions. Can you tell us a little bit about what other states have done in terms of this, either directly for Cabela's or this kind of a sales tax incentive program, and also what you see the difference between this and other kinds of retail activity that might exist or might in the future exist?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Landis, will you respond, please?

SENATOR LANDIS: Let me give you...thank you very much. Let me give you four states that do this, and there could well be more. West Virginia, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Nevada. And the reason I know that those four states do it is because those states have wound up working with Cabela's to do this concept. I haven't checked to see how many states have it, although I will tell you that our Department of Economic Development certainly was aware of this, and our Chamber of Commerce certainly was aware of this as they got ready towards the session and thinking about what they wanted to...where they were going to be on various projects, what they were going to endorse. How is this retail different from other retail? The operations themselves are somewhat different in that the retail stores contain a element of museum-like displays that people go to and watch for dioramas and panoramas of nature and the like, and that provides an activity that's enjoyable. There's a little bit of natural history in there. There is a little bit of an educational or museum aspect to it. But let us make no doubt, this is a commercial operation designed to sell things. I'm not saying this is a museum. I'm saying that among the other things that...

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.