

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

May 11, 2005

LB 425

it's there. Now, if it's not needed, it's going to come back. We have not been utilizing the job training money as much as we should have been utilizing it, but probably that's as a result of not having that many new jobs. So the hope is that we will have a business or businesses that move to this state that desperately need to have their employees trained, because oftentimes you're talking about people starting to work in a company that have no experience or expertise in operating the machinery, the equipment, the other facets of the business itself. And so you take the virtually unskilled in the particular area and you train them so they can work in this business. This is something that all of the states utilize. We have not done it because we didn't set aside money to do it as we should, and it just simply has not been used. It's been spoon-fed into Economic Development. This will be administered by our Department of Economic Development, and I have seen the application of this in many cases in North Platte. I know that it's utilized. I know that it's an incentive for a business to come here and to start their business here. I know that even with a beer distributorship that was set up in North Platte, they needed to train their people how to use the various equipment that they needed to stock their areas to work in the various machinery and equipment that was needed for that kind of a business. So it is something that can be used. I'm very well acquainted with the Economic Development director for the state of Nebraska and I think he does an outstanding job, but I think he needs some help. He needs some help in the form of money in the way of job training, so that that can be offered. So it's another one of those tools that is needed. I would like to...now, I mentioned Senator Engel. He had a bill to do this. It's not necessary for us to have a bill, because we already have an economic development fund in the state of Nebraska in our regular budget operation, so we are simply utilizing the existing statutory mechanism that we already have. The funds were already set up and this will be sort of self-executing because we can simply make the transfer and it's really not necessary to have a separate bill to do this, because we can do it by this form of operation. This seems to be the simplest way to do it. And certainly we are just in the process now of evolving the economic development package. I think this is an essential tool of that package. So with that, I will return the