

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

May 11, 2005

LB 425

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...money. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Raikes and Engel. Senator Brown, your light is next.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Madam President and members. We have had this program for...since 1994, I believe. And the department uses the fund to provide reimbursements for job training activities, including employee assessment, preemployment training, on-the-job training, training equipment costs, and other reasonable costs related to helping industry and businesses locate and expand in Nebraska, or to provide upgrading in skills training of existing labor force necessary to adapt to new technology, or the introduction of new product lines. And what Senator Preister said was absolutely correct. And one of the reasons that I was somewhat skeptical about this in the beginning was because, as compared to a number of states that have this sort of fund, they have it mostly for entry-level, because they do not have as strong of a K-12 educational system. So they are doing training for workers just to be able to do very basic kinds of skills. But the more that you find out about what we need to do to do specialized kinds of training for specialized kinds of jobs in the new technology, it is because we have a good university system and a good community college system. It is because we have the resources that if the...if we can provide a little bit of help for these companies, it's going to be quite attractive to them, because they know that they can get the kind of training that they need, or through the labor unions. It...we have the resources there. But the companies sometimes just need a little bit of help to make sure that the workers can do the kinds of jobs, and especially technological jobs. If we are trying to transition our economy, and take people who may not have had the background that we would like them to have in highly technical kinds of endeavors, this can help the business. The contract is between the department and the business. But the contracts are going to be rated on whether they're utilizing most appropriately the resources that are available in the state of Nebraska. So I