

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

May 11, 2005

LB 312, 425

Economic Development, without any further definition and guidelines. But certainly, if this is the statute that we're talking about--and I've pretty much taken you through all the substantive sections that relate to criteria--you've heard it all. And this is a fund that's now...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in the amount of \$16 million. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Brown, followed by Senator Kremer.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, I would yield some time to Senator Pederson.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson, almost five minutes.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have tried to submit to some of those who had specific questions. And if any of you do have specific questions, I have some material here that I could furnish to you. But essentially, we're not reinventing anything. We are simply utilizing the custom training program that we already have in the state. But this is a one-time \$15 million. It's not \$15 million each year. One-time \$15 million, to be sitting there in a cash reserve. If it's used, wonderful. If it isn't used, then it's going to have to come back at the end of two years. If we see that this plan is really working, then we haven't hurt ourselves by giving it a test run. And that's what I'm proposing that we do by this. If we had taken General Funds, which we certainly could have done, that would be in the program, and just held there, and perhaps not utilized. I hope it would be utilized. But this is an opportunity that we have to set that money aside. And perhaps we need to revise this particular job training statute that we have. But we do have a very specific statute. We have a competent Department of Economic Development. And I think that if we need to work with them on more details, perhaps, in further implementation of LB 312...and I want you to remember, this isn't just for big cities. There are units of LB 312 that apply to the entire