

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

May 18, 2005

LB 312, 500

industrial purposes. My eye stops at "animal husbandry." So if Pfizer wants to build a big additional research addition out there to do research on animal husbandry, can they do it under LB 312? Yes, they can. Are they competing with Novartis down the road? Yes, they are. Can Novartis do the same thing in the other directions? Yes, they can. I don't know if...to what extent those operations have retail operations associated with them. But you're definitely interfering in a competitive relationship. Now, it also says, the performance of data processing, telecommunications, insurance, and financial services. Well, we have lots of insurance companies in Lincoln, many of whom sell retail, direct sales to consumers. And to the extent that any one of those companies wanted to take advantage of LB 312, they could do that, and the state would be involved in some sort of competitive advantage in that situation. Financial services is not limited to wholesale situations, whatever that would be with financial services. But anybody related to financial services can, if they meet the qualifications, apply for LB 312 assistance from the state. Another category is through the storage, warehousing, distribution, transportation, or sale of tangible personal property. Well, distribution, we have financed several distribution centers using LB 312 financing. Those distribution centers directly relate to the competitiveness of retail establishments. Walmart is a good example of that, for better or for worse. So again, we are having an effect on retail competition. The question, it seems to me, is not whether we should do this or not do this and make a flat-out rule about it. I think that the determination that we've come to in most cases...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...is that there's some kind of balancing to go on there, and that what we really need to be sure we have in this bill is balancing mechanisms, at the state level, where the Governor is going to be on the hot seat in making these determinations, or at the local level, where the local council will be on the hot seat in terms of balancing all the factors and being sure that there's not an inappropriate interference with retail competition. And next time I get a chance, I want