

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

May 24, 2005

LB 40

the Redfield amendment, AM1562. Have you all voted on the issue who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Redfield's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: AM1562 has been adopted.

CLERK: Senator Redfield, I now have AM1666. (Legislative Journal page 1678.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Redfield, on AM1666 to LB 40.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I also want to thank the Clerk for catching that number error earlier. AM1666 addresses an issue that Senator Chambers brought up on General File. It talks about the distribution of the Affordable Housing Trust Funds. It does not impact the Behavioral Health Funds for rental assistance for those with serious mental illness. So I want to put your minds to rest. This is talking about the remainder of the fund, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, specifically. And it would require that a minimum amount would go back to any community of 50,000 population. The amendment that I withdraw was actually recommended by DED, and they wanted to peg the amendment language to the Housing and Urban Development's language for community development block grants. Right now, Congress is talking about eliminating those grants or changing the definition. And so it was deemed more expeditious on our part to go back to the definition that currently exists in federal statute, which is, a community of 50,000 or more inhabitants, according to the most recent federal decennial census. The issue is this. Omaha area has been contributing to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to the tune of 34.6 percent of the funds that are distributed across the state. And we have records that show that in 2003, Omaha received zero funds, not one project; and in 2004 were only approved one project, for a total of 5.8 percent. The needs are great. The inner city in north Omaha and south Omaha have significant housing needs. We have a large density of low-income people. And we are trying to protect that house stock and maintain its efficacy in the marketplace. So I am hopeful that you will accept the amendment