

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

May 24, 2005

LB 40

results of that vote. That's certainly significant, and it would allow the body to speak. I know we don't have a lot of time, a lot of days left in the session. I'd like to move the bill forward. But what I will remind everyone is that this bill actually raises the documentary stamp tax, which means that people in the Omaha area will be increasing the fee that they pay when they transfer their property. And that means that that 34.6 percent that they contribute to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund will actually go up proportionately with the rest of the state. But it will also allow 30 cents to be earmarked for distribution for rental for those with serious mental illness. And that certainly is something that Senator Flood will benefit from in his district. And that will be paid for, to a great degree, by the people in the city of Omaha, the city of Lincoln. And I think that we are creating a fund that is sufficient for all to share. I believe per capita is a fair distribution. I'm hoping that you'll adopt the amendment. Certainly, let's take a vote and move on with the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. If this is an Omaha versus rural Nebraska battle, that's wrong. If this is about the state aid formula, I want to correct the record, because that's not done per capita; that's done by need. We could do this by legislative districts, but it even makes the whole concept more insane. My legislative district would be one county. What are the doc. stamps in your district, Senator Chambers? What are the doc. stamp taxes in your district, Senator Redfield? This is insane. If you're going to do it per capita, you're only picking three cities to do it per capita, and then the rest of us fight over the scraps. I do believe that the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is important. I supported the increase. I support the good work that Senator Redfield has done with others with regard to behavioral health. I want to see this money go to people who need it. Most of those people who need it are people that are working poor. And this house does more than just give them shelter; it gives them a leg up in life to get on track and to own something. But the idea that we pick three cities out is not right. And I can stand here and tell you that the city of Norfolk didn't receive