

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 24, 2005

LB 693

right to the discussion of advancement. Senator Mines, followed by Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President. As Senator Landis said, there were no amendments from committee. Committee realize...or recognizes that this...the new market tax financing package is an excellent way for good deals to become very good deals, and without this...I think there's just a great opportunity for our state to advance under the NIFA administered plan. So again, the committee advanced, 8-0, and there were no amendments, and the committee supports LB 693. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm also very supportive of this, but I would just like to ask a couple of questions of Senator Landis, if he would be willing to respond.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, would you respond, please?

SENATOR LANDIS: Uh-huh.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Landis, how well is the NIFA program utilized in our state in these counties for agribusiness, agriculture, or things that they can loan money to? Is it...is it very well utilized? Is it accepted? Or is there a problem with it?

SENATOR LANDIS: We had a period of time when we had problems with NIFA and it was about 10 to 15 years ago, and one of the very early difficulties in the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee 15 years ago, when I was first there, was trying to sort out the things that they did well from the things that they did not do well, and there was a blemish in that history. It...we have since done much better on that score. NIFA has a terrific track record border to border, county to county, all parts of the state, on first-time homebuyers. They do a variety of other kinds of things as well, some of them more successful than others, but that would be their long suit.