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

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fund, seriously misunderstood. And we find it extremely frustrating that we're not able to get complete consideration of So I've collected some information that's been distributed to you. I would say right off that there is information on here that the ... that I will give, that the Governor's staff does not So I'm not knocking them for a veto or anything like that. And it's not because of their negligence. This is a side issue, to us and to them. And because of that, we have a serious gap in our understanding. The purpose of this act is to provide transportation for the elderly and the handicapped. The assistance we give is limited to one-half of the operating costs. And one of the charming parts of this bill, which has been with us for 30 years, is that it is nondiscriminating between urban and rural. And it seems to me sad that we have made that a bit of a contest in recent years. The major funding for this began 20 years ago. And I have examined that and...along with others. The serious problem that we have here is that during that time there has been no supervision. There's been administration of it. The checks have been written, and all of that's done in proper order. But no supervision, no review at the end of the year to see how it's being used, no study, no projections. The Legislature and the administration share in this responsibility. Until a year ago, we shared in the funding of it. But we have not assigned the administration to anybody, or the review of it, so that's the way it's been. The confusion and the misunderstanding is reflected in the veto The veto message talks about use of this for message itself. capital purposes. That is not the case. This fund cannot be used for capital purposes. It never has been. I checked with the bus systems to see how they are using it, and they can't even use it for a match on a federal fund that might have something to do with capital system. It is not capital money. They...to be fair about it, at the time of the hearing -- we did have a hearing on all of this -- I asked the Lincoln and Omaha, which have the city bus lines, how they are doing as a total group, as an agency. It seems to me, if we're examining what one arm of an agency is doing, it's up to us to also find out if the total group is healthy. So we asked them that question. And they responded that with the use of property tax -- and by the way, if we were to give help to this, it would affect property taxes; you've heard of that one -- that they are able to make it,