

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

January 31, 2006 LB 1003

and, as you can tell, essentially balancing amendment, if you will. The Department of Revenue is relieved of their obligation to audit for the compliances of the act when in fact there aren't a sufficient number of qualifiers that allow for distribution of information. The reason is, if there aren't enough qualifiers in a various...in one of those tiers, you would know who they were. It would violate federal and state confidentiality statutes. You have to have a grouping of them so you're not getting a picture of individual taxpayers. And this says, when we don't have enough taxpayers in that, then we don't have to do the audit. Saves ourselves time, energy, and administration costs to do so. Corporations that are owned largely by foundations or governmental entities, like pensions funds, could still qualify as taxpayers under the definition of the Nebraska Advantage Act. And Senator Redfield made an adjustment in the amendment that she passed last year to allow for the use of the average by a taxpayer...an investment-only taxpayer to see that they maintained their employment obligations and the number of employees that they had during the life of the project. This allows them to take into account on the averaging basis, so that they can see that the compliance has been on an average, not an annual basis, if you will. New investment, for our definition for that purpose, includes repairs and maintenance of investment property; just, if you will, a better definition. Finally, there is one change that I think is worth talking about that's not technical in the same way. We have three programs that are in the rural development area. They are the Community Development Assistance Act, the Microenterprise Tax Credit Act from Senator Connealy, and the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Grant program from last year, Senator Stuhr. They are all in the area of distressed areas of Nebraska, and they're all essentially rural-oriented programs in which we try to define areas that need special attention from one of those three bills. The Department of Economic Development says, look, what we've got is we've got three bills trying to do much the same thing, but they each have individual definitions. And that means that we have to have three different individual forms, that we go back and forth. If one project has...relates to two different programs, we've got to do two different forms. Couldn't we just have one definition of "distressed area" and apply it to all three programs and