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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2006      LB 1060

Flood, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Flood.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Senator Flood, the amendment reads that there is included in the appropriation of this program \$75,000 General Funds to be available for grants to local law enforcement agencies in counties with a population of 400,000 or more inhabitants for the purpose of diversity training or minority recruitment. Now, we have a pool of \$75,000. We've got the Elkhorn Police Department, the Valley Police Department, the Bennington Police Department, Ralston Police Department, you've got the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and you have the Omaha Police Department. How...what's the formula by which all these various agencies apply for these funds? And are they going to be proportional? I mean, what's the formula in terms of delving (sic) the funds out?

SENATOR FLOOD: The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice will make grants, competitive grants, available to the applicants that make an application for a grant. So if the Elkhorn Police Department comes forward with a grant that is worthy in the Nebraska Crime Commission's opinion, then they will receive money under this amendment. You know, we have 1.7 million people in this state; 1.3 million people are sharing \$353,000, and 400,000 people...well, 500,000 people, I should say, are sharing \$75,000. When I put this together, quite honestly, I wanted to do something that would be fair to the people that live in Douglas County, and make money available for programs that were important to this county's largest police department.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: And I appreciate that. I sincerely do. But I'm just afraid that it's conceivable that the commission...I get...the senior member's primary concern, I think it's evident, is with the Omaha Police Department. But it's conceivable, and it's...we give the commission the authority, that all this money will go to Elkhorn, Valley, Bennington, and Ralston, and perhaps the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. It's conceivable that none of this money for diversity training or minority recruitment will go to Omaha