

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

March 23, 2006 LB 1060

Police Department. Now, I think we're under the assumption that they'll make application for these grants. And I think it would be fair to assume that all these other police departments, as well, can make a competitive grant application. But there's no direct...there's no legislative intent, then, that the county's largest law enforcement agency, which I would assume is the Omaha Police Department, there's nothing in here that would assure them of any funds whatsoever.

SENATOR FLOOD: Well, I don't know how we would...you know, I would certainly imagine that the one law enforcement agency in Douglas County that wants it the most would be the Omaha Police Department, the county's largest law enforcement agency. But I would leave it to the discretion of the Crime Commission to look at the applications that they receive and award the grant based on who shows the most need and...most need, and also where the money would be most effective. And I think you could make an argument, from where we stand now, even not being a resident of Douglas County, that the Omaha Police Department's desire to have diversity training and minority recruitment of police officers is a very compelling need. And I would hope that the Crime Commission, in introducing this amendment, would pay special attention to the needs of departments like the Omaha Police Department.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: And likewise with Senator Bourne's concern that we're now using General Funds as opposed to some cash funds. If we're going to proceed with an amendment, would you be open to perhaps a legislative intent that some of this funding be reserved for the Omaha Police Department? I think that the crafting of the amendment, the intent was that a majority of these funds go there, but it's not detailed. And that we do indeed have several law enforcement agencies within Douglas County...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: ...each of them departments could benefit from this program that you're putting together. Each of them will probably provide applications. I mean, if we would divide it evenly, you're talking, you know, what, \$10,000-\$15,000 that