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9-11, many states, including Nebraska, have seen a dramatic increase in funds for homeland security. My particular interest has been in ensuring some legislative oversight of these funds. And I might mention that the National Conference of State Legislatures actually had a task force look into this issue several years ago, and their strong recommendation was that legislatures have this kind of oversight regarding these funds. Now it would have been better if we could have done this several years back because we know that those federal funds are already starting to dry up and the state may be left holding the bag in some instances. But better late than never. I am distributing a report which you should be getting shortly which shows the amount of funds Nebraska has received through the Homeland Security Grant Program. According to the report, Nebraska has received over \$79 million in federal funds between 1999 and 2005. During this time, the Governor created the Homeland Security Policy Group. Members of that group have included, for example, the Lieutenant Governor, who has chaired it; the Adjutant General; representatives of NEMA; State Patrol, Fire Marshal; and University of Nebraska Med Center. This bill would simply codify the Homeland Security Group. But the bill does not specify who will sit on the policy group other than requiring the Executive Board, our Executive Board, to appoint two nonvoting ex officio members to that policy group. Other than that, the bill leaves the decisions regarding who will sit on the policy group to the discretion of the Governor. I believe having some kind of legislative representation on the policy group is important. The Legislature is the body which typically provides oversight and appropriates funds to agencies. To increase that oversight, LB 940 also requires the policy group to report semiannually to the Executive Board as to its activities. The report will include identification of federal funds sent to the state in support of its preparedness activities, and indicate the use of federal funds received by the state for homeland security. I thought it was interesting to note in the fiscal note the Military Department indicated that with increased federal requirements and decreased federal funding at the state and local level the potential exists that future funding may become the responsibility of the state. If that potential exists, I believe the Legislature should be in the loop regarding how federal homeland security funds are