

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

April 5, 2006

LB 1105

ten years ago or whatever, there were a very small number of people. Now we're talking 10,000 people from all over the country. But we have held this in Nebraska every year. But for the Qwest Center, we would have lost this, it's quite likely. These are people from out of state who fill our hotels, so we're going to allow annual stockholder meetings where there's more than 10,000 people and a great many of them are from out of state, a definition that's open-ended, but the only one who qualifies is Berkshire Hathaway. That is, yet again, another kind of project that will be able to contribute their sales tax. A fourth idea in LB 1105 is to change or to allow greater methodology for the state in deciding who was an out-of-state person and who wasn't an out-of-state person. Right now, a convention organizer provides the name and address of every person at the convention, and that's hard to do. It's costly. It's time-consuming. There are sampling techniques that you could use. So the committee amendments will allow us to do a methodology agreed to by the state and Omaha, or an actual list of participants by zip code, or a statistically reliable sample, or a random sample of at least 10 percent of the attendees, not to exceed 200. Any of those methodologies is a legitimate sampling technique to use, and it's open-ended. It allows for an easier way to do this than in the past. One last description of the committee amendments, because we'll get to those in just a moment, we do change the distribution. Now, I must say that our change is a moving target, because the Brashear amendment, which we'll have momentarily, will make another...yet again another shift. But let me describe to you the current distribution, then the committee amendment, and then let me precurse the Brashear amendment by describing what it does as well. Current law: 70 percent of this turnback goes to the project, and that means the Qwest Center; 30 percent comes to the state for a fund which is distributed to a number of other centers around the state. We're developing a list, people make application, we go through the grants, we award those grants, as money comes in we pay them off, and we've done that in a handful of cases around the state. In the committee amendments to LB 1105, we change that. For the money from the conference center--and we hope to get more money from the conference center because we're going to get those out-of-state people, we're going to get the Berkshire Hathaway situation--75 percent will