



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 443**

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**Chairperson:** Senator William R. Wickersham  
**Committee:** Revenue  
**Date of Hearing:** February 7, 2001

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of this bill is to help reduce the 70% unemployment rate of blind or visually impaired persons in Nebraska. LB 443 would earmark the sales and use taxes paid by blind vendors and transfer these funds to the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The Commission would use these funds to expand the current blind vendors program by purchasing more vending machines, acquiring more vending sites, training additional vendors, and funding other services necessary to support the vendors in their jobs. Last fiscal year the total sales and use tax paid by vendors under this program to the Department of Revenue was about \$120,000.

The investment of this money into the blind vendors program would not only save the State of Nebraska money in benefits it currently pays to unemployed and underemployed blind people, but it could bring in additional income tax revenue from vendors who are gainfully employed. Most importantly it presents an opportunity for the success and independence of blind individuals.

The bill also includes a provision allowing the Department of Revenue to deduct from sufficient revenue from the first year's receipts to implement this bill. This provision will limit the fiscal impact of the state's administrative costs.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Donald G. Preister**



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