

If you believe the federal government's stimulus report, Nebraska's population has jumped quite a bit.

According to the report, the state has 48 congressional districts. The problem: Nebraska actually has only three.

Several nonexistent congressional districts also were included in the report for Iowa.

The errors are just another example of the problems that have plagued the stimulus reports available on the federal Web site www.recovery.gov.

This week, Vice President Joe Biden ordered officials to fix errors in the reports. The federal site is run by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, which was set up by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Lee Terry, who represents Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District -- which is a real district -- took issue Wednesday with the report. "The information contained in this Web site is very concerning to me," he said in a statement.

Terry, who voted against the stimulus package, repeated his criticism of its size.

The report for Nebraska lists several congressional districts that don't exist in the state, such as 4, 14, 31, 44 and 48. In some cases, the number listed most likely refers to a state legislative district where the money was awarded.

For example, the report lists \$47,897 being awarded to the 43rd Congressional District. The money, however, is for housing assistance in Ainsworth, which is in the 43rd Legislative District.

In eight cases, the wrong district is listed because information for projects from other states was incorrectly included in the stimulus report for Nebraska. Projects for Minnesota, North Carolina, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri and California are in the report.

For example, \$102,375 that went to the University of California- Santa Barbara ended up listed in Nebraska's report.

Of course, Nebraska might wish it had a 17th Congressional District. According to the report, 22.4 jobs were created or saved there.

Contact the writer:

444-1149, tom.shaw@owh.com

