

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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time January 7th, referred to the Government Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Chris Peterson, you are going to open on this bill.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: With your permission, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Okay.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Madam President, members of the body, LB 84 allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish and operate a state veterans cemetery system, which would include a facility in Box Butte County and the Nebraska Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Hall County. It also creates the Veteran Cemetery Maintenance Fund. The cost to the department to establish, there was a fiscal note of approximately \$300,000, but what this is is just a flow through cost that will then be reimbursed due to federal actions which now provide for 100 percent of the cost, start-up cost and one-time developmental cost. The idea behind the bill, we currently have in the state of Nebraska one national cemetery, which is in McPherson County, and this would provide accessibility for veterans across the state by coming with a...if you draw concentric circles in your mind, there would be three locations then across the state where veterans would have access to burial sites there, and so that it makes it much more convenient for the relatives and friends and family to be able to visit those sites. The ongoing operation maintenance cost will depend upon the size of the cemetery, but overall, this is I think a very important bill to us. One of the ideas behind this has to do with the whole issue of national cemeteries and the room that is available to bury the veterans. When we came up with this bill last year, it did advance out of committee. We had Bill Jayne, the Director of the State Cemetery Grant Service come and they put on a proposal for this. And so at this time, I believe there are committee amendments, and if there are any questions, I will try to answer those.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Opening on the committee amendments, Senator Schimek. (See AM0206 on page 498 of the Legislative Journal.)