

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

May 5, 1999

LB 683

General Fund, it's still the equivalent of an increase in the General Fund spending. It will be under the State Building Fund for capital construction. Just a clarification. And I will say, so I'm...I told Senator Thompson I was neutral on this. Frankly, I'm leaning against it, because I don't want to burden down my bill, and I know there's controversy over the building, over the need, and over the tax. But I also think it needs to be discussed. We have an issue between Kearney, at the least, and a maximum security unit we have in Omaha at the max, which we just went into operation last fall. We built that. We have a huge area in between, and we have a growing population, sadly but truly, in my mind. So I will say I hope, to be completely up front, I think this needs to be discussed. Whether we can arrive at a solution, whether the body thinks it's a solution, okay. If this amendment flies and it doesn't harm my original bill, I guess that's going to be the will of the body, but you have to realize you're increasing spending some, and you're going to have to understand, if that's the solution that Senator Thompson is offering in the amendment, if that's what you want. I do have some questions, and I don't know whether you'll get into it, Senator Thompson. Where do you propose this facility will be? I don't...maybe you can do that on your time or mine, I don't care. I'll give you the rest of my time right now. But I would be interested as to...I don't remember the other day, I was confused the other day as to what your proposals were, so I'd be interested in some detail as part of this general discussion, at least at this point.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Thompson, you have a little over two minutes.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. The discussion evolved on the floor, and so, for those of you who weren't there for all of that, let me tell you that the discussion that I'm bringing to you comes from an interest in this being in the metropolitan Omaha area, because a lot of the kids who would be served by this facility are there, they'd be closer to their families, closer to their community services, and although we can't...it would be nice if we could place these all over the state. This was the discussion we had, and this was what I believe we should bring forward is that it should be located somewhere in the metropolitan Omaha area. And what was