

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

February 8, 2002 LB 1101

\$4 million at this point in this particular fund. So it's been suggested and our Appropriations Committee has concurred that we transfer that to, this money, to the lawsuit fund or the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Cash Fund and so we can further prepare for trial, which I said starts in June. Our costs have been quite above the estimate in that particular fund. We have spent significant amount of money already, actually \$13 million. This will add to that in making our case. If there's details that you want to know about it, currently the law firm is holding \$428,645 in billings for the month of October, \$568,721 in billings for the month of November because the state has run out of available funding. There are approximately 1,500,000 pages of state documents to review in this case, about 390,000 pages of documents from other parties' trial preparation, and which has been a very involved process. The legal team will soon be appealing the federal court's decision not to allow a jury trial in this case. It is anticipated the entire legal team will be in Nebraska full time for at least two to three weeks prior to the start of the trial. So this has been an ongoing process. I've jumped around a little bit. The point is that we really have no alternative but defend ourselves in this case and it is our suggestion and our...through this bill, obviously, that we fund this and so the state of Nebraska can get on with paying its bills and doing the things we need to defend ourselves in this trial coming up in June. So, with that, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cudaback, I...I'd urge advancement of this bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on LB 1101 by Senator Wehrbein. Mr. Clerk, committee amendments.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I do have amendments from the Appropriations Committee.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open on them.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That is...is that to strike Section 1? Is that what that says? I have explained the bill as it's been amended, so the procedure will be to vote to...for our amendment, which strikes Section 1, which, thus, makes the bill