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March 28, 2003 LB 357, 357A

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. This is the election bill that we discussed and since the original discussions on General and Select, it appears that Nebraska is going to get, in addition to the original \$5 million that we talked about on General File, we will be getting approximately \$4.9 million in addition to that, which is part of that ongoing distribution of funds to the state. And this money will require a 5 percent match, so that's what this amendment is all about. The amendment adds an emergency clause to the bill, first of all, so that we can accept that money when it comes in, and allows a transfer of \$260,000 from the Corporation Cash Fund to the Election Administration Fund on or before May 1, 2003. And as you remember, LB 357 requires the implementation of a statewide voter registration system. This money that we're talking about, the \$4.9 million, is expected to come in sometime this fall, and with the transfer of the \$260,000, we will have met the requirements of the 5 percent match and will be in a position to receive it. This was a deliberate decision to proceed in this manner as with the amendment on LB 357A that we did the other day. A meeting involving Government Committee staff, Secretary of State, Fiscal Office, and Governor's Budget Office discussed different possibilities and this is the course of action which was decided to be the best. And I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Seeing no further lights on, Senator Schimek to close. Senator Schimek waives closing. The motion before the body is to return LB 357 to Select File for specific amendment. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay.

SENATOR LANDIS PRESIDING

SENATOR LANDIS: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to return the bill.