

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 18, 2004 LB 917, 1052, 1089

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, do you have any items for the record?

CLERK: Just one item, Mr. President, and that's, your Committee on Urban Affairs, chaired by Senator Hartnett, reports LB 1052 to General File with committee amendments attached. That's all that I had, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1147-1149.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We now go to the agenda item, budget and budget related bills. Mr. Clerk, where were we when we recessed, please?

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1089 had been offered. Senator Wehrbein, as Chair of the committee, had offered the Appropriations Committee amendments. Senator Chambers had an amendment to those committee amendments. I then had a priority motion filed. Senator Chambers has moved to bracket the bill until April 15, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: We are now on the bracket motion of LB 1089. Open for discussion. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm not sure what bill we're on at this point, so I'm going to proceed a little bit down the line of some of the bills that are on the agenda, so there will be some familiarity with them, regardless of whether we move on or not. And I'm going to talk a little bit about LB 917 right now. LB 917 will acknowledge the Nebraska Forest Service in state law, provide for its administration, cite its mission, and, most importantly, have four core programs. Currently, only the State Forester is in state law. If you remember, under the university budget cuts a couple of years ago, it was recognized that the Forestry Service was not a direct function of the...or direct responsibility to have the function...of its function under the University of Nebraska. And so they eliminated it. Last year we did some temporary funding, if you will, or some interim funding. And this year, we are proposing via this law and in our budget we have \$300,000 the first year, \$500,000 in the second year to fund the Nebraska Forestry Service. It's to be a