

We are not doing that at all. We are just putting it through a normal structured, common sense legislative appropriation process. The money, instead of being earmarked, would go to the general fund. The Appropriations Committee and the Governor and then the floor would direct that money to the proper authority, the law enforcement improvement fund, depending upon their needs. To me this is the way state government should run. We keep the reins. We are responsible. We can't pass the buck. The buck stops here. The buck stops in the corner office and that is where it should be. Earmarking is sort of taking a detour right from the start saying that we don't want this responsibility. We are going to come up with some kind of magic formula and let the numbers fall where they may. That is not good business and that is not good government. I think the amendment before us is excellent and I think it is the proper approach and one that is an opportunity for us to correct right now.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I have to object to the amendment as it is now written. I checked with Senator Johnson and the way we are understanding it at this point, that this amendment would abolish the one dollar and so you are then putting the burden of supporting this function on the taxpayer rather than on the violator and I believe he is amenable to altering the amendment so that one dollar goes to the general fund and then the facility is funded out of the general fund which would correct the amendment as far as I am concerned but as it stands now, we are eliminating the dollar and I don't think we should do that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I think we are finally getting down to the crux of it and I have two trains of thought here. I think Senator Dworak was not aware that we are eliminating the fee and they are working on it up here now but I certainly thought that we had an agreement in the committee that we would make a study on this and we had the eight to nothing vote on it with the idea that we would be...this amendment would not come in. Of course, I know you can't stop anybody from putting amendments up on the floor but I think we are delving into something this morning that could wreck the Training Center out in Grand Island where we just spent something like three and a half million dollars, I believe, building the facility and making it better. I do think that perhaps the offender should pay part of that cost of training. If you want to run it right through the general fund that is fine but I don't want to have any part of taking that money out of the bill and then trying to go through Senator Dworak's