

bill, LB 49A. If we don't attack this problem and attack it properly and put some money in it, we will have the same kind of a situation that exists today where there are counties doing absolutely nothing to control this insidious problem that could ultimately cost us millions of acres of cropland being lost to poor stewardship by not addressing the problem. And I understand Senator Nelson's problems with chemicals being used. There are some other techniques that are coming along that show some promise, such as rotation, natural biological enemies and predators upon the weeds. But, in the meantime, we have to go about controlling the best we can with what we have. I would certainly support the passage of this bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Lamb.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I had...I was able to gather a few thoughts. The funding for the bill calls for two hundred and, I believe, four thousand dollars or something of that nature. Actually, what we intend to do is fund half of it with General Fund money and half of it...actually the total bill is 375,000 and that's...we're not sure that's even all that accurate. But the actual funding will come from matched money of General Fund and money from the...this noxious...or this toxic poisons fund. And, currently, as we talked about on General File on the bill, there are 67,000, I believe,...or 6,700 drugs or poisons that are licensed in Nebraska. Currently, we draw \$10.00 per registration which is used by the Department of Agriculture and this bill would call for that amount to be added to the amount of \$40.00 per registration, raising us about \$187,000 from the registrations of those chemicals. And then we ask for the General Fund to provide the other \$187,000. We did this...we planned this and calculated it fairly closely along the lines of the Department of Agriculture and their recommendations. They felt it would take about this amount of money to do an adequate job with the bill and so this is the reason that the bill was drafted that way. I don't believe there is any problem with that. I think they will be able to still do that and, of course, we'll be subject to renewal every year in the Legislature for the funding. But, like I said to begin with, I have absolutely no qualms or difficulties about bringing this request to the body because of the immense...the importance of the legislation and the amount of problem we have out there and the fact that we do need to show some good faith with our