

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

January 25, 1999 LB 138

wrong here. In 1994, was the beginning date. The matching funds that the commission has to provide are not to match the 1.6 million money that goes to volunteers, but rather the operating funds. And, as I understand it, what has happened is that the match required by the federal government has increased from 30 percent to 50 percent. And, as a result of that, last year the commission needed \$115,000 in match, and now that goes up to about \$180,000. A good deal of the \$115,000 in match was money, in effect, provided by the state; Senator Schimek mentioned this--13,000 for office space, 27,000 for support from Health and Human Services, and some other things. Now there's a requirement that that money has...or that amount has to be increased. I guess I would suggest the following. Senator Schimek mentioned the reasons for this--stability and oversight of the Legislature. Well, I think the stability refers to fiscal stability. You don't have to worry about raising money, if you get a fiscal appropriation. On the other hand, the legislative oversight, if this group could continue operating the way they are now, and if they could collect contributions rather than state funds to operate, they wouldn't have to worry about legislative oversight. They could continue doing what they're doing. I'm not sure that when you look at it in that context that this would amount to, or that state funding of this would amount to a better deal either for the state or for the volunteer commission. I certainly do agree that good work is being done there. I wonder if it wouldn't be in the best interests of all concerned, though, if we don't continue it the way it is, and that we don't allow them to get this money through donations from individuals, businesses, and other groups in the state. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Engel.

**SENATOR ENGEL:** Mr. President, members of the body, I too would like to make a few comments about this particular bill. Perhaps I've been on the Appropriations Committee too long. In fact, different times I've thought that, but in Appropriations we've seen these boards and commissions become created, and we've seen them grow to the point that beyond their...really our expectations. And each and every year they come in for more and more money. As far as the worthiness, I think they're all