

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

February 1, 1999 LB 243

I'd like to know the key to that. But 16 states, including Kansas and Oklahoma and North Dakota, have passed such legislation. There are bills pending in Iowa and Colorado, so I would suggest at some point we're going to be surrounded by states that are going to be doing 100 percent tuition credits or tuition help and we may be isolated with some of our guard's potential members going to other state guards. I do think that there is a difference between the National Guard and the Army Reserves. The guard is really the state's responsibility. The Army Reserves are...and the reserves are more a national responsibility. So I do believe it is perfectly appropriate for us to signify a difference between the two when it comes to the tuition credit. I don't believe that this would be money badly spent. I think this would be money well spent. I think it is a good investment. If you had listened to the young woman who was just about to be sent to Bosnia, we ask these folks to put their lives on the line time and again. These people are helping our communities, they are helping our state, and they are helping our country in foreign places. I think this is a relatively small investment for what we get from the National Guard. With that, I would just encourage you to advance E & R...or to advance this bill to E & R, so we can continue to have this discussion but please don't...please don't discount the 100 percent idea before we get to that point down the line. I think we need to keep it there as a very viable option. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Chair recognizes Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, members, Mr. President and members. And, Senator Schimek, I am glad to know you and I agree on this bill. I'll speak, you said some of the things that I was going to say as far as the National Guard locally and the fact that it is an incentive to try and get membership and to give some of these young people who have a hard time getting the tuition to go to school, to serve their...the state, and definitely, yes, it is a state National Guard. Many of you read over the weekend, I am sure, the story about the '49 blizzard here in Nebraska before we had a lot of different weather predictions abili...prediction ability in place and so on. And Governor Val Peterson, what did he do? He called out the National Guard, and