

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

February 1, 1999 LB 243

tuition assistance to the members of the reserve forces in Nebraska. These are federal troops, federal troops with no connection or no control by state government in Nebraska. They can only be called out, in any event, by the President of the United States, or those that he has delegated that authority to. It's very difficult to find the amount of money that is spent on this tuition program because it is hidden, and not...not hidden in not a bad sense, but it is included within the tuition remission claims that are made by the universities and state colleges in the state of Nebraska. And I know what that amount used to be, but I do not know what the current figure is. Bearing in mind that the tuition...the membership in the National Guard of the state of Nebraska has a well-defined, very important role in public safety and disaster assistance in the state, I don't know anything that a person could say that would underline the criticality of having that branch of state government, with its dual role, being encouraged to be of sufficient size and sufficient training to carry out its role and mission. But, if money is a problem, for those of you who are looking at the...at the fiscal note only, then I would suggest that you ask the question of how much is coming from the General Fund's budget of the state of Nebraska as tuition remissions for the members of the reserve forces. Whichever branch of the service they are, these are federal troops and do not have the role and mission that the Nebraska National Guard has. This is not directed at those folks individually because they're all fine people, but there is an encouragement to join. At the current time, they're both 50 percent tuition remission programs, and there's an encouragement to join the reserve forces as opposed to the National Guard because you get the same tuition remission and you don't face the possibility of being called into active service in the case of flood, disaster, or any of the other reasons that the Nebraska National Guard serves us all...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...so very well. Bear in mind, we spend a lot of money on a lot of things, not all of which are a rational state policy. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein, on the amendment.