

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

February 16, 1999 LB 84

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President, and, Senator Wehrbein, we can continue the discussion. I will let you use my time to ask questions if you have any. I think, and in Box Butte County and the city of Alliance have both indicated support for a facility there. I had better be careful, I am not sure about Box Butte County. The city of Alliance has. For example, they have existing water lines and facilities. They have some existing maintenance crews and maintenance equipment, things like that, that could be potentially used at the cemetery. I am not saying that they have made...they've signed on the dotted line and that's their commitment, but I think that if you go to them and ask that you will find that those things are possible because a proposed site is located next to another large activity and you could easily use equipment, and personnel in a dual capacity. I think the city of Alliance, in addition, has indicated that in that instance, that particular community, they would be willing to donate the land because they have some existing land. Now I don't want to go too far in speculating about who will do what, but that's the reason the structure is appropriate. You put in \$7,500 for the seed money, let somebody draw up plans and specifications, bring that back to your committee, and then you guys will, or you persons, people, will make sure that all the details work out and that it would be properly maintained, that you've made the right provisions for the ongoing costs. You know what they are for the facility as designed and the expected volume of activity. I'd be...I don't know that today.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I understand the study. If I may ask one more question, is it your perception that probably you will need some state subsidy? Now I mean the traditional cemeteries that we think about that are at least ongoing are self...self-supporting, but I assume in this case the state is in it because this is probably an area that needs some state support.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes, I can't tell you that I think we'd be able to find the resources exclusively from others to operate them, but, and you are right, somebody has to subsidize these because veterans get free burial as does, I believe, their spouse. And in order to provide free burial, that somehow you