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have to take in...take those costs into account. Yes, there would be at some future time a request for state funding, but, again, that is going to be a decision for the Appropriations Committee and then a future Legislature as to whether or not that's justified. This is necessary to get the authorization in place to draw up plans and specifications in the first place. You can't...you can't do any of that without knowing that you have authorization to go forward and even bring the proposal to the committee.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I understand. Well, I just wanted to call attention to the body. I'm not necessarily opposed to this. It is starting something else and it will have long-term funding implications, probably reasonable, probably needed, probably necessary, but it is putting the state of Nebraska into an area that we're not now presently in. I, too, strongly support veterans. Probably all right for the study, although I would say once we do the study, it'll probably be difficult for us to do anything else but move forward with it come another year. And so those of you that are listening, you might want to keep that in mind. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wickersham and Senator Wehrbein. Senator Wehrbein, you're...okay. Senator Chris Peterson.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I would just like to respond to some of the comments that Senator Wehrbein had made. As Senator Wickersham explained, Fort McPherson is Nebraska's only national cemetery. Grand Island does have the Grand Island Memorial Cemetery that does allow burial there of veterans who have been residents of the home. When we looked at this bill last year, Bill Jayne, who was the Director of the State Cemetery Grant Service came and visited us. The national cemetery system administers the state cemetery grants program and it does provide financial assistance to states for establishing, improving, and expanding state veterans...state veterans cemeteries. And the strategy, basically, is to build new ones, to expand existing ones where they can, and to promote the state cemeteries grant program. Because of our changing demographics, there is going to be a need for those spaces. The reason the 70-mile...75-mile service