

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 10, 2000 LB 957A

General Funds and \$80,000 in Cash Fund authority. I mentioned that there has already been \$50,000 of private funds committed to the project, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service has secured an additional \$20,000 grant from the Department of Energy and is seeking another \$20,000 grant. I've asked the Fiscal Office to prepare this amendment. Essentially, this amendment is providing for the possibility of additional "nonstate" funds to be acquired and used for the purposes of the bill, and requires that Cash Funds shall be used before state funds may be used. Since our discussion on General File, I have been made aware of an initiative contained in the present Fiscal Year 2001 budget request of Congress. The President asked for \$42 million in Department of Energy budget for competitive grants to stimulate and support carbon sequestration studies. I'd like to say that again, if you wouldn't mind listening. The President, in his Fiscal Year 2001 budget request of Congress, has asked for \$42 million in the Department of Energy budget for competitive grants to stimulate and support carbon sequestration studies. We have consulted with the Department of Energy. We have indicated that the carbon sequestration assessment provided for in the bill is a type of activity which could be eligible for funding through this initiative. This is part of the reason my earlier amendment to the bill itself added a representative of the Nebraska Energy Office to the advisory committee, since it is the Energy Office which is most familiar with the U.S. Department of Energy programs and funding sources. We are also investigating the possibility of other potential sources of funding, perhaps including the Environmental Trust Fund. It is my hope that at least the second year of General Funds will not be necessary. Of course, this amendment will not technically change the bill's effect on the state's General Fund status as the A bill will still show a commitment of General Funds of \$220,000 over two years. But I am hopeful that we'll be able to find "nonstate" sources to replace at least half of the General Funds. I would urge your adoption of this amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Discussion on the Dierks amendment? Seeing none, Senator Dierks, would you...he waives closing. The question is the adoption of the Dierks amendment to LB 957A. All in favor vote aye, opposed no.