

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

March 13, 2000 LB 1217

allowed \$6 million, and they are doing a study of their system. They are self-insured, but we have...there may be more next year. There may...hopefully, they'll be able to learn some things to get that under control. But, as you all know, health care costs are going up quite rapidly for all of us, just about regardless of where you're at. So this represents a \$6 million increase. It was mentioned about the low-level radio active waste costs, that's going to be the lawsuit, and I will warn you that that's going to continue on and on and on, on. Then on down the list is several others that I've mentioned already, mental health, sex offender beds, we're opening up 12 beds here at Lincoln Regional Center, which will relieve some space at Norfolk, which will help Region VI or Omaha have additional bed space. I guess an editorial here, well not on this, not on the sex offenders, but on the mental health issues we're facing in Omaha. Many of those are drug and alcohol related. The Nebraska Information System, that will...that's \$1 million, that's for DAS, our information systems. That will be an ongoing expense. Demolish and rebuild a maintenance building at Chadron, is nearly \$1 million. That is a 40-some year old building that's made out of wood, maintenance buildings, a very serious fire hazard. We decided to bite the bullet this year and do that, something we think is necessary. Natural Resource Enhancement Fund is \$500,000. Additional child protective services staff, we in Nebraska are far over our staffing...or understaffed, I should say, as compared to other states, particular on child protective workers. This is an additional \$500,000 for that. There's \$500,000 this year and another one next year that's not on the sheet that is proposed at least for Centennial Mall improvements. We have, state of Nebraska has 57 percent of the frontage space along these first two blocks, north of the Capitol, on Centennial Mall. This is, I suppose, a fairly modest amount of money to go toward improving that area that the city of Lincoln is undertaking. Acquisition of the county assessor's office in Greeley and Hitchcock. This brings that to 11. You remember the other day, we are now at a total of \$2.2 million, but these two are about \$200,000 each. Additional local transit authorities aid, this is benefiting Omaha and Lincoln systems particularly. The rest of them in rural Nebraska get half of their deficit automatically taken care of. Omaha and Lincoln are running increasing deficits because of drop in aid, and we took away their property tax