

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

March 14, 2000 LB 1349

up on our building renewal plans. And now I would like to see what's going to happen to those CHARTS over the next two years. Seems to me that once again we are taking money out of the Building Renewal Fund. I'm going to watch this very carefully, but I don't believe I can support that. I think that cigarette tax money has been used as a scapegoat ever since I've been in the Legislature, and I don't want to see it continue. Let's get it somewhere else. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'm going to, Mr. President, members, I will be brief. Senator Janssen is correct, this was a decision that the committee made. Two cents, it isn't money that's there now, it's money that was going to come in there when the Omaha arena fund was over...Public Events Facility Fund was concluded, which is June 30, 2001. Instead of 4 cents coming back now to go into 309, it will be 2 cents, which is approximately \$2.5 million, \$2.6 million, about \$1.3 million for each cent of cigarette tax at the present time. The decision was made here, because of infrastructure computerization, information technology is somewhat infrastructure today and I think can be regarded as such. It's a constant battle to keep it up to date and keep it...flow, and this was the suggestion, to have a fund that would service that. I think the case can be made that a house of computers is about like a building in many ways, information technology is a fact of life today and it takes money. And so this is an effort to keep our software, particularly, I guess it can cover everything, current and up to date and have a constant flow of money. I admit it's a policy decision. I respect your comments, Senator Janssen, but this is our proposal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 1349. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Committee amendments are agreed to.