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Fund for appropriation by the Legislature for purposes stated in that act. The amendment removes this, by the way. The Legislature was not required to appropriate all available funds in any given year. The Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature was required to make annual recommendations for appropriation of any available funds. That recommendation would come in the form of a bill introduced by the committee with an accompanying A bill specifying the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund as a source of appropriation. The bill also expands the Nebraska Health Care Council, formerly named Excellence in Health Care Council, from six members to nine members, and requires geographical diversity on the council. The potential of the Health Care Funding Act is exciting and substantial. LB 1427 is intended to offer a next step in the development of this important health-care funding tool. I want to repeat my continued commitment to two values that are fundamental to the act. First, I'm committed as much as possible to preserve the principal in the IGT funds and the tobacco settlement funds and use only the investment income from those funds and, secondly, I'm committed to using the funds only for healthcare and public health, not for anything else. The underlying values are not changed in LB 1427. I have heard from many of you in the body about the trust fund. Many of you have expressed the desire for the Legislature to have greater participation in the distribution of funds. I also share in that philosophy. We have also been asked to provide trust fund money for tobacco prevention and cessation programs, and additional funds for nursing facility conversions. I also concur in the using of trust funds for those needs. I want to thank you for your input and assistance in making the trust fund the best it can be for the future of healthcare in the state of Nebraska. And now, Mr. President, I would like to go into the committee amendment of the bill, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may if you wish to. (AM2662, Legislative Journal page 935.)

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. The committee amendment, AM2662, returns the tobacco settlement and Medicaid intergovernmental funds, IGT funds, to their former status as trust funds. They really are cash funds, but trust funds may not be technical accurate, but it retains the connotation of