

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

January 29, 2003 LB 122

to give if you don't have the resources to adequately maintain and keep these parks at a standard that at least most people expect. So that's the dilemma. I hear what Senator Chambers is saying in terms of perhaps lack of accessibility by many in our society. That issue is going to permeate throughout our budget this year, and I, and I think the committee, are going to look at those issues very carefully as we go forward, and I have no doubt that this will be an ongoing issue as we work through this budget. And I think we all ought to be committed to making these...this budget year, as difficult as it is, as fair and realistic as we can and not balance our budget on the backs of those that can least afford it. Some of that is going to occur, probably. On the other hand, this is an area where, by and large, I believe most people are willing to do this, and I'm sitting here thinking if there's a way that those that could...that want to go and can't afford to do it, if there's a way to screen that out so they could go in. I would be receptive, but I cannot think of an idea that that would be...where that would work on a on-the-spot screening situation where lack of affordability should not be a problem if they wanted to go in. But I do think that \$20 over a year's time for access is certainly a modest amount. And if there was a way that we could get around that issue or provide for some form of access...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...that others...that those that would enjoy going to and should be able to, I would be receptive to that, but I don't have that idea at this time. Perhaps, with 49 ideas in here, we can come up with something like that. But at this point, I think it's important to maintain the parks to the best of our ability, and this is, at the present time, the best way that I see to do it, other than expanding the use of General Funds, which certainly is going to have lots of pressure on General Funds for many other issues that Nebraska is going to be facing. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Janssen.