

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

April 29, 2003      LB 406

appropriate the money, so we could end up starting all over. But at this point I believe both site...those two sites, the two top ones on the list of everything we looked at, are currently available.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, you made the comment that you wanted to keep these, as I understand it, as close to the vets hospital as you could. Is that correct?

SENATOR PREISTER: That's correct. That cuts down...

SENATOR VRTISKA: You haven't looked...you haven't looked further out where it might be more land available, but you've tried to stay within a certain perimeter of where the hospital is. Is that correct?

SENATOR PREISTER: That's correct.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. Well, the other question that I had, and since you're on that task force, and I'm sure you've done a lot of thorough investigation, has there...because you talked about the lowering of the numbers, have you looked at the possibility of, in design, of looking for maybe expansion at some time if you don't...aren't able to get the full 150 beds? Would the...would you work with an architect to plan where they might be able to expand it if we weren't able to fund the whole thing at this time, or have you thought about that?

SENATOR PREISTER: Oh, yes, we definitely need to make that a part. If this is going to end up being a scaled back version, we do need to make sure that expansion is looked at and built in.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I...

SENATOR PREISTER: The difficulty, though, is with the initial building we get the match. If we expand, that match may not be there and the state may have to pick up the whole amount, and I don't think we want to spend all that.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I didn't realize that. I thought any time