

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

April 30, 2003

LB 285, 408

into their cash fund. And so now we're taking the fire insurance tax premiums to the General Fund for that reason. This amendment permits two transfers from the Litter Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund, the Department of DEQ. As you know, the Litter Reduction Fund is within DEQ. We transfer cash in the amount of \$481,104 for the Superfund program expenses. The second transfer provides \$278,928 to the Livestock Waste Management Cash Fund. These are the first year only. These are in lieu of using General Funds. The committee amendment also reduced the amount of funds transferred from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to the Department of Natural Resources' Water Issues Cash Fund, in the amount of \$925,000. This issue, for the purpose of funding Nebraska's expenses relating to the Platte River Cooperative Agreement. The Governor had taken \$4 million from this fund for that, and used it for other purposes. We reduced that significantly and used it simply for what we thought was a more appropriate use, with the Platte River Cooperative Agreement. We also strike, in this amendment, the Governor's recommendation that the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund be used to fund Superfund expenses in DEQ. And as I mentioned in the item above, we funded it in a different way. We also took \$2 million each year from the Recreational Road Fund, under Game and Parks, for the next two years, 2003 to 2005, for...took it to the General Fund. Our sense was, frankly, roads are important. Recreational road funds are important. But for two...for the next two years, we would take those \$2 million and not provide any additional funding for the Recreational Road Fund. And then finally, and perhaps the most important issue here that may be of interest, the amendment provides that each month, beginning January 4, 2004, through June 30, 2005, an amount equivalent to .5 percent sales tax on motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers, shall be transferred from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund. If the current 5.5 sales tax rate is extended to July 1, 2005, the additional .5 cent...percent sales tax will reimburse the Highway Trust Fund for this transfer. It's kind of technical, but it's important to understand. The Revenue bill, I don't know the number. What was that put out? LB 285. This is kind of contingent on LB 285, which I understand the Revenue Committee put out this morning. That's the extension of LB 1085. If you recall when we had LB 1085 a year ago, the