

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 28, 2003

LB 285A, 758

would go with the first motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, next bill, LB 285A, Senator Landis would move to return the bill for specific amendment, AM2113. (Legislative Journal page 2080.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Landis, to open on AM2113.

SENATOR LANDIS: This is the fourth time you've heard this issue. (Laugh) Let's do it quick. This is \$400,000 in each of two years of money that we created yesterday for the smoking cessation program. Let me tell you what the money is. Our current cigarette wholesaler's rate is 1.7 until October of next year. At that time, the Brashear bill is going to take over, 3.4, or under current law it would go back up to 3.4. Yesterday, we dropped that rate to 1.8, 1.85 yesterday. When we did that we took, from October next year forward, about a million dollars a year from the cigarette wholesalers and brought it in here. It hadn't been in part of LB 758, hadn't been in the green mainline budget, hadn't been on the green sheet. That money was not available to us and it wasn't anywhere in all the rest of our budgetary thinking. As of yesterday, we created about a million dollars going forward as of October of next year. In this cycle, in this biennium, there will be \$800,000 of money that we created yesterday that we had not had anywhere else on the green sheet and it wasn't anywhere else in any of our thinking. There's \$800,000 that we'll create next year. This says we will spend \$400,000 this year, now that's a cash flow problem, and \$400,000 next year, and next year we'll get \$800,000. Yesterday we made a change of Nebraska law that brought in for this biennium \$800,000 more and it comes from cigarette wholesalers. That's money that I can spend for cigarette cessation or a smoking cessation program. The program fits exactly the money and no more. It's not money that we were relying on, looking for, or had contemplated up until yesterday. It's not found money but it's not money that we were fighting all the rest of our budgetary priorities about. Maybe that's a form that this body can support. If it is, I offer this amendment to LB 285 (sic--LB 285A) to do that.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING