

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

May 28, 2003

LB 285A

adopted. Senator Mossey.

SENATOR MOSSEY: Mr. President, I'd move the advancement of LB 285A to E & R for engrossing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Motion is to advance LB 285A to E & R for engrossing. Senator Landis, your light was on. Did you wish to speak? He does not wish to speak. All in favor of the motion say aye. Opposed nay. It is readvanced.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wehrbein would move to return LB 285A to Select File for specific amendment. (AM2120, Legislative Journal page 2082.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized on your motion to return LB 285A to Select File for a specific amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President and members, and believe me, I thought long and hard before I introduced this amendment. In fact, I told Senator Jones yesterday I would not do it. But I consider we have a real emergency in central Nebraska. This money, this is \$250,000 for this current year as a deficit to carry over into next year via the reappropriation, if you notice, it can be reappropriated into next year, to spray grasshoppers, in central Nebraska primarily. That's where the problem is. It can go anywhere. There is now \$121,000 in the fund at the Department of Agriculture. This adds 250...this would propose to add \$250,000 to continue to match \$750,000 of federal funds. We have a very serious problem, and I'm going to let Senator Jones explain what it is out there. It is extremely serious in rural Nebraska in this particular case. Now is...the timing is very critical to spray these hoppers while they are small. Otherwise, it is all for naught. And so the Governor has...the administration has approved of this particular thing because it is so serious. There really is no other source of funds, particularly in the Department of Agriculture, to do this. We've squeezed most of these budgets down to the point that there really is no alternative but to request additional General Fund money, and that's what this does. So I hope you will take this very seriously, consider it an emergency, and