

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

March 18, 2004 LB 931, 1089

that money be used for renovation work as well as renewal work. Renovation work is defined as work to replace interior or exterior systems of an existing building to accommodate changes in the use of the building space or changes in programmatic needs for building space. In other words, currently the money is only available for maintaining these facilities or to bring the facilities in compliance with fire safety regulations and so on, or to bring buildings into compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The intent of the bill is to make the money available for remodeling projects as well. Now remember, when we put the LB 1100 into place, it was a measure that would not allow these buildings to deteriorate any further than they already had by a rent charge that was appropriated to each one of those systems. And a portion of that then would go back into actually a savings account, so that when that building needed to be repaired, the funds were available to do that. And I was glad to see the Appropriations Committee put this in the package, because I think it's something that the university system is going to be able to rely on, not as far as building new existing buildings, but taking buildings that need to be renovated for another purpose. Therefore, they are able to use these funds. And I think it is a good idea. It will work well, especially for the state colleges and the University of Nebraska. I wanted to bring that to your attention, and thank the Appropriations Committee for seeing fit to put this in the package. With that, I give the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Erdman, on the Chambers amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1089.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The discussion that Senator Bourne was having I believe is in LB 931. I think Senator Redfield is going to address that, so I won't go there. But some of the questions about the Affordable Housing Trust Fund came before the Health Committee in a form that Senator Redfield introduced, and I believe she can expand upon. The discussion is interesting, that, you know, we're arguing for hours on end here about whether or not we're going to accept a \$300,000 cut, when in