

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

March 19, 2004      LB 1091

for the next 25 years. I don't know what happens after beyond that. But still, as long as people are smoking cigarettes, the dollars will be there. But the significant part of this is in that the fewer teenagers that we have taking up smoking, the fewer health care costs we're going to have in the future, in Medicaid, Medicare, general health costs. And we will be doing, I think, our general citizens a great favor. We'll be reducing teenage smoking. We'll be reducing teenagers ever taking up smoking in the first place. And the program, as I'm sure many of you have seen the kids that come down every year, the Nebraska free kids program has been outstanding throughout this state. You have young people talking and working with young people. You have ads that are geared to young people, that you've seen on television, that certainly are working. So with that, right now we have the amount of dollars in appropriations for one year. This would just make that an annual carve-out, if you will, that once the check comes to the state, \$2.5 million would automatically go to the Tobacco Control Fund. That's all the bill does. I would just urge the body's adoption of this. Be glad to answer any questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. You've heard the opening on AM2983 to LB 1091. Open for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have to ask Senator Jensen a question or two about this.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Jensen, at an earlier and more enlightened period, this amount that you're putting in here now would have been \$7 million? Is that true?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes. We put in \$7 million for three years. That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And did the full three years elapse before that amount was reduced?