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March 23, 2004 LB 841, 1162

Services; and an amendment, Senator Byars, to LB 841. That's all that I have. (Legislative Journal pages 1216-1219.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. It is now 4:30, a little bit past. We go to General File, 2004 senator priority bills. Mr. Clerk, first legislative bill.

CLERK: LB 1162, Mr. President, by Senator Mines. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 20, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments. (AM3193, Legislative Journal page 1139.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Mines, to open on LB 1162.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. LB 1162 is straightforward. It amends provisions in Nebraska Statute 81-1413 that relate to funding for the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. LB 1162 is necessary because of unanticipated financial and logistical problems that have prevented development of a core curriculum which would be offered by our community colleges, state colleges, and the university in conjunction with a tuition-based skills academy at the Law Enforcement Training Center. LB 1162 provides that the Law Enforcement Improvement Fund, or LIEF, L-I-E-F (sic--LEIF), fee of \$2 will continue until a curriculum is available. Right now the \$2 fee is assessed in all criminal proceedings except juvenile proceedings or proceedings waived by the court. This fee is allocated to the LEIF which is used for payment of administrative and operational expenses of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, as well as other expenses budgeted by the Legislature for the improvement of law enforcement. The \$2 fee is scheduled to terminate on July 1, 2007. This fund helps offset tuition costs for law enforcement officers from cities, villages, and counties across the state. The tuition to provide basic training, room and board, it's about \$5,000. LB 994 that was passed in 2000 provides that the LEIF funds would continue to be used to transition from the current method of training to a tuition-based academy. The state's fiscal crisis in 2002 resulted in the elimination of full-time employees that were required to begin the process of moving from the current method of training to training which would