

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 6, 2004 LB 1231

SENATOR MOSSEY: Mr. President, I move the adoption of E & R amendments to LB 1231.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion to adopt the E & R amendments to LB 1231. All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Hartnett, AM3490. I have note you'd like to withdraw, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hartnett would move to amend with AM3504. (Legislative Journal page 1413.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hartnett, to open on AM3504 to LB 1231.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, it does three things. It add political subdivisions to the list of parties authorized to enter into contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the cemetery system. This is a clarifying amendment. Provides that any money in the Veteran Cemetery Maintenance Fund which serves no function in the new funding scheme would be transferred to the Veterans Cemetery Construction Fund created by this bill. Please note, there's no funds actually in the maintenance fund, and there's nothing to transfer. This is a method recommended by the Revisor's Office. Changes provision, would authorize the director of the Department of Veterans Affairs to apply for cemetery construction assistance from the federal government. Currently, no application for federal assistance can be made until there is sufficient funding in the endowment fund to cover 125 percent of the annual maintenance expenses for all three cemeteries in the system for at least five years. Under this amendment, the director could make application for assistance for cemeteries in counties with a population of less than 100,000 persons, Box Butte and Hall Counties, at his or her discretion when he or she determines that the federal requirements for such assistance has been met. Applications for the cemetery in the counties