

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

April 20, 2005      LB 673A

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Don Pederson would move to amend the A bill. I have FA167. (Legislative Journal page 1223.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Madam Clerk. I understand, Senator Kruse, you're authorized to handle the Senator Pederson amendment. If so, you are recognized to open on it.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. FA167 was filed by Senator Don Pederson. It reduces the amount of dollars appropriated from the General Fund for '06 and '07 from \$100,000 per year, to \$25,000 per year. That is the amendment. Senator Pederson spoke with Senator Loudon prior to filing the floor amendment, and Senator Loudon indicated that was the amount that he had originally thought would work, but he'd been discouraged from...or he'd been encouraged to raise the amount in the bill. Senator Loudon indicated to Senator Pederson that he did not have any problems with the \$25,000 amount contained in the floor amendment. And now, quoting from Senator Pederson, "I realized that the original \$100,000 amount was included due to the extra duties assigned to the Director of Agriculture to enforce and carry out the act, as well as to hire a separate program specialist to work with the counties and landowners in implementing the management plan. However, the committee amendment, as drafted, becomes the bill and makes substantive and technical revisions, as well as reducing the duties of the Director of Agriculture to a largely advisory role. Therefore, the \$25,000 included in FA167 would be sufficient for the counties to adopt a prairie dog management program consistent with the rules and regulations established by the Director of Agriculture. The bill already indicates the Department of Agriculture will cooperate with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, and landowners to manage black-tailed prairie dog colonies in Nebraska. I request respectfully your support of FA167." Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Loudon (sic). You've heard the opening on Senator Don Pederson's amendment FA167. Mr. Clerk, priority motion.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I do have a priority motion.