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FLOOR DEBATE

May 4, 2005

LB 424

will be LB 424.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 424 was introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 13 of this year, referred to the Appropriations Committee. The committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments. (AM1284, Legislative Journal page 1334.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson, as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, you're recognized to open on LB 424.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. LB 424 appropriates funds for the reaffirmation and new construction of projects. New construction refers to projects initiated in the 2005 session, while reaffirmations refer to funding needed to complete projects authorized and initial funding provided for in prior legislative sessions. A summary and complete listing of the construction projects start on page 79 of the book that we distributed to you. Over the two years of the biennium, about 83 percent of the recommended General Funds for capital construction and reaffirmation of projects initiated in prior sessions. This includes \$5.7 million each year for the continuation of the NETV digital conversion project; \$5.9 million in each year for the state's share of the deferred maintenance and repair project at the University of Nebraska and state colleges, as authorized under LB 1100; \$1,700,000 each year for renovation of the Carpenter NETC building; and \$3.9 million in FY '05-06, and \$1.3 million in '06-07, for the continued funding for the State Capitol masonry and construction project. I might mention that in regard to that, this is an ongoing project. Certainly, it's cost a great deal more than we ever anticipated that it would cost. But we are in the process of funding as needed, and we still have a long way to go. But it's typical of a remodeling project, in that you start it, you find out...and particularly, a building as old as this one is, when you tear into something, you find we have to make certain changes we didn't anticipate, and so the project is carried on longer. In terms of new construction, there are only two major projects with General Fund impact--the renovation of the Engineering Building at UNO,