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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 673

The fact that the county doesn't have any money does not enter in here because the county would hire someone to do it, assess that bill to the property owner and that would stay on that property as far as a bill, as an assessment, just like their property taxes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I can understand that, but who is going to go on the land to move these...to handle these prairie dogs if he or she is not going to be paid? They say...and the county says, well, we're going to assess the cost of your work against this property, and the person says, well, wait a minute, how long will it take me to get my money? Well, we have to let a certain number of years go by before we can foreclose and sell the property to get the money we owe you, so you just do it and let us owe you. Who do you think is going...you're going to get to...

SENATOR BAKER: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...do that work when that person cannot be paid?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Realistically, the county would be paying the company that would eradicate or remove the prairie dogs.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And where would they get the money? They would sell a vehicle. Right?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: The county would get the money from their reserve fund, from their cash fund. Counties all have reserves. And that would take care of that portion of it. Then that dollar amount, which was paid to the one that removed them, would be assessed to that property.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How much is there in the cash fund usually?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Generally, there's a certain percentage of your total budget is in the cash fund. I think it's between 4 percent and 6 percent is maintained in reserve.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And in the average Nebraska county, not