

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 227

I believe the intention was to have donations and contributions to help with the endowment fund. The intent was to protect the principal of the endowment fund. Language offered in the committee amendment will do that. Senator Schimek has a committee amendment to LB 227.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Loudon. You've heard the opening. There are committee amendments, as stated. Chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Schimek, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This was an amendment that we also worked on for quite a while. Senator Loudon kind of drew us kicking and screaming along the way here, but we finally arrived at something I think works for the endowment fund and for Senator Loudon and for the committee. The committee amendment eliminates the original provisions in the bill, allowing the Legislature to appropriate not more than \$100,000 in a fiscal year to the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund. It also eliminates the current prohibition of remitting General Fund dollars to the operation fund, as Senator Loudon just mentioned. Finally, the committee amendment clarifies that no portion of the principal of the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Endowment Fund will be expended for any purpose except investment. With that, Mr. President, I'd be happy to try to answer questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. There are committee...or there are amendments to the committee amendment. Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Senator Wehrbein would move to amend the committee amendments. (AM0931, Legislative Journal page 1055.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, to open on your amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This amendment does a very simple thing. It reduces the amount of money necessary to fund the maintenance of a cemetery. As it is, it says that 125 percent, and this reduces that. It still...it reduces it from \$120 million necessary to endow it