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LB 227

down to \$10 million to \$15 million. It's unnecessarily high, the level of endowment that was placed in the bill, and this will be raised by private funds. I've been involved in this also, and it appears to me that this will be ample money for an endowment to properly provide for the maintenance of this cemetery over the necessary years of its life. And so it simply reduces that amount. One hundred and twenty percent is unnecessarily high, or in this case \$120 million, so I'm asking that this be reduced to a more reasonable number. There is no question in the minds of those (inaudible) be raised by private money and that it can now go forward until that money is raised, and it will be a more logical and moderate amount of money.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. You've heard the opening of the Wehrbein amendment to the committee amendments to LB 227. Open for discussion. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think I would call your attention to the explanation of the amendment to the bill as provided in the committee statement. And there's one statement there I think that you should be aware of and that's the last sentence in the first paragraph which says this amendment also eliminates the current prohibition of remitting General Fund dollars to operation funds. And I think this is a substantial change in policy for the state of Nebraska. We, I guess, have assumed that these matters would be handled by contributions and things of that nature, and it's been a long time that we have had the prohibition against using General Funds for this purpose. Senator Loudon has indicated that there has been a change in federal funding of the cemeteries now and that they require the use of General Funds. So I just want to call your attention to the fact that we have had this prohibition. This eliminates that prohibition and not just for this bill but for any other of the veterans' cemeteries. With that, I just wish to advise you in that manner. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Further discussion on the Wehrbein amendment? Senator Wehrbein, there are no lights on. You're recognized to close. Senator Wehrbein