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LB 856

funding of the possible state takeover of the particular function that's described in the bill, and it simply provides that, although there may be General Funds at the beginning, a fee which is already provided for in the bill will be relied upon for the ongoing funding. And it says that it's the intent of the Legislature, furthermore, that any General Funds appropriated for purposes of this section shall be reimbursed to the General Fund. So that will give some guidance to our Fiscal Office as they look to this in the future. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The floor is now open for discussion. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I would just like to also state that I am in agreement with this, with this amendment. I'll just give you a little bit of history. Back in 1999, LB 835 was passed and the provisions in that bill said that the department shall assess a fee of not to exceed 2 cents per animal unit reported under Sections 54-2613 as direct purchases or contract purchases. So when...if this should be implemented by the state of Nebraska, if it was...right now it's preempted by the...by the federal, by the Congress, and they discontinued it, but I think they will reinstate it again. But it should come back to the state. Then there would be a checkoff of 2 cents per animal so it would be cash funded. The money that was appropriated would be brought to us as...from the department that they should, in the first I think 12 months, come to us with the...with a proposal of how much they needed to get things up and going, software, whatever they need for personnel. That would only be up until the time that the program was implemented. At that time, it would go over to the Cash Fund. The Cash Fund then would reimburse back to the General Fund the amount of money that was spent. So it would be neutral in the long run. That's what's in the original statutes, but I think it's very appropriate to put in the statutes of the bill here before us today so there's no misunderstanding. So thank you, Senator Beutler, for bringing that to us.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Further discussion on AM2515? Seeing none, Senator Beutler, you're