

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2006 LB 746

does about one-half of it. But the budget this year addresses the shortcomings with General Funds, and it's our hope that we can make some modifications, make sure they were getting exactly what they used to be getting, what they used to get, and then from here on forward go forth with just \$1 committed to the LEIF funds and \$1 committed to the Legal Aid Services across Nebraska. Hopefully that makes sense. It should be on your gadget in AM2842. Again, the idea is to do something for Legal Aid in perpetuity so that underprivileged and indigent litigants in civil actions across this state that qualify for the services of Legal Aid will have representation, and we can supplement those efforts through court fees, which I might add, I think, is...there's a direct correlation between people paying court fees and those that need the services, and I think that's an appropriate way to appropriate those dollars. And the other \$1 would go toward the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island so that we can continue to make sure that our law enforcement officers receive adequate and excellent training before they begin to enforce our laws in the state, county, and city level. Mr. President, that's a short summary of the amendment. I don't know if Senator Chambers has any interest, or Senator Bourne has any interest in the rest of my time. Senator Chambers, I would yield the balance of my time to you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, ever since I've been down here, I have opposed paying with court costs or court fees for services that ought to be paid for from the General Fund. And when it comes to certain types of activities that don't bear directly on the operation of the court, such as what Senator Flood is offering us today, I have really been adamantly opposed to the use of court fees. That was why many years ago I got an amendment added which would phase out or sunset some of those court fees going to this Law Enforcement Training Center. That has been my position. It was my position when we started this session. I was opposed to Senator Mines' bill, and then Senator Flood and Senator Bourne came up with this idea, which really can be called a compromise. The \$2 will continue in place, that fee, horrible as it is, but sometimes, if not a clean thing, a less soiled thing can be