

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

May 5, 1999

LB 683

received national awards for their research. I think that this would be a very important amendment for us to pass. I think it would impact the lives of many Nebraskans, and I would ask my colleagues to support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Kiel. Senator Bohlke, you are recognized to speak.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President and members, I rise in support of the Hilgert amendment. I've had ongoing discussions with Senator Thompson this session about the needs for a secured facility for youth. But I...what I oppose doing was doing it off of a sin tax, automatically raising taxes. And I had said to her, if we have needs in this state, we need to face those needs, we have to admit that we have those needs, and, rather than going out and taxing people, I think we should meet that obligation, face it straight up, and I think at least using the existing...3 cents of the existing tax and redirecting it is a much better way than just, which oftentimes is easier, creating...raising the current tax by 3 cents. I think that it's an identified need. I think if we all feel that, that this is the better way to fund it. And I realize, Senator Wehrbein, that means that we would be taking 3 cents, essentially, from the General Fund, redirecting it to capital improvement, building...and state buildings, but I certainly find this more acceptable than a new, additional 3-cent tax. And so I rise in support of the Hilgert amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members. I'm going to get more and more into this because, as I said...recognized early, I think this needs to be discussed, but I am reluctant to go on and on about the discussion. At the risk of being premature in the discussion, I...I...I'm not sure there's enough plan out there to know where we're going. And I guess I'd like to ask Senator Thompson.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Where...where are Department of Corrections, is there a master plan at all to...I'm reluctant to commit this