

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

March 14, 2000 LB 637, 1217

CLERK: I have one other, besides the next two...the next two are yours, and then one behind those, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I will pull those and refile them on Select.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill at this time, Senator Baker. (AM2827, Legislative Journal page 1049.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Baker, recognized to open on AM2827.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, this amendment is pretty straightforward, it shouldn't take much time. We'd like to at least discuss it. (Laughter) Hold the applause. (Laughter) We...we were working...Senator...or, I'm sorry, Chris Peterson, former Senator Peterson did draft a letter back to Senator Kristensen, Speaker Kristenson, here, and it's an excellent letter. What my concerns were was that we continually are feeding more money into the system to get this CHARTS program up, and of course the appropriation...deficit appropriation bill here has \$1.3 million in it for Fiscal Year 1999-2000, \$310,000 for 2001, and my amendment simply pulls that back out. Part of the justification for this is contained in the letter from Senator Peterson. We did appropriate \$13.3 million, last year, for LB 637. My conversations with the State Treasurer, Dave Heineman, that the SDU was basically ready to go up. They had the rooms rented and so on, the space rented and what not for the people and so on. There's still \$11.6 million left out of that money we appropriated to Health and Human Services to implement CHARTS and so on. I think that probably we can work this out, HHS could work this out and find this money. I had visited with Senator Wehrbein on this. For discussion purposes, we had \$310,000 included in the bill for...this is on page 5 of the original bill, by the way, for those who want to follow along. There was \$310,000 in the bill for Fiscal Year 2001, and that is 10 percent of what we expect to be sanctioned. There is some question now that maybe perhaps we can find a way to get this up and going before then and not have that sanction. That is just 10 percent; the other 90 percent would be addressed in the next year's budget. So, that remains to be seen, whether it be sanctioned or not.