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FLOOR DEBATE

March 17, 2004 LB 895, 962

SENATOR CUDABACK: No objection, so ordered.

CLERK: Senator Schrock would move to amend this component, Mr. President, with AM3199. (Legislative Journal pages 1100-1106.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, to open on your motion.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment incorporates LB 895 as advanced with the committee amendments from the Revenue Committee. This will allow a natural resources district to levy an additional 1 cent to carry out the recommendations of the Water Policy Task Force, and I would repeat, only provisions of the Water Policy Task Force. They can't do any bait and switch. It also allows them to exceed the budget by the same amount. The amendment also creates the Water Resources Trust Fund within the Department of Natural Resources for specific appropriations and funds received by the department from any federal, state, public or private sources for the purposes described in the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. These funds can be used to assist in the payment of cost in reaching determinations regarding whether or not a river basin is fully appropriated, developing or implementing integrated management plans for fully appropriated basins, developing plans for plans that have not yet become fully appropriated, and for attaining state compliance with the interstate water compacts, decrees or agreements. Except for attaining compliance with interstate water compacts, decrees or agreements, political subdivisions must match with 20 percent of their own funds. In other words, if the state appropriates money in a basin, then these funds can be used for a 20 percent match. The amendment contains the emergency clause for this portion of the bill so the budget being set can meet the appropriate deadline. The last part of the amendment deals with municipality issues to further clarify that if the municipality has obtained a permit under the Municipal and Rural Domestic Ground Water Transfer Permit Act and to require that the controls adopted by the district be consistent with preferences. This means that domestic use will be given preference over agricultural use, which would be given