

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

**CLEMENTS:** Are we ready to get started? Welcome to the Appropriations Committee. Are we recording?

**CORI BIERBAUM:** Yes, we are.

**CLEMENTS:** All right. Thank you. My name is Rob Clements. I'm from Elmwood. I represent Legislative District 2. I serve as Chair of this committee. We'll start off by having the committee members do self-introductions, starting with my far right.

**ERDMAN:** Steve Erdman, District 47.

**LIPPINCOTT:** Loren Lippincott, District 34.

**VARGAS:** Tony Vargas, District 7.

**WISHART:** Anna Wishart, District 27.

**DOVER:** Oh, sorry. Robert Dover, District 19, Madison County and south half of Pierce.

**DORN:** Myron Dorn, District 30.

**ARMENDARIZ:** Christy Armendariz, District 18.

**CLEMENTS:** And if there are committee members absent, they may be presenting a bill in another committee. And you may see them come and go during the afternoon. If you're planning to testify today, please fill out a green testifier sheet located on the side of the room and hand it to the page when you come up to testify. If you will not be testifying but want to go on record as having a position on the bill being heard today, there are yellow sign-in sheets on the side of the room where you may leave your name and other pertinent information. These sign-in sheets will become exhibits in the permanent record after today's hearing. To better facilitate today's hearing, I ask that you abide by the following procedures. Please silence your cell phones. When hearing bills, the order of testimony will be introducer, proponents, opponents, neutral, and closing. When we hear testimony regarding agencies, we will first hear from a representative of the agency, then we will hear testimony from anyone who wishes to speak on the agency's budget request. When you come to testify, please spell your first and last name for the record before you testify. Be concise. We request that you limit your testimony to 5 minutes or less. Written material may be distributed to the committee members as exhibits only while testimony is being offered. Hand them to the page

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

for distribution when you come up to testify. If you have written testimony but do not have 12 copies, please raise your hand now so the page can make copies for you. Another comment I had about spelling your name, I introduced a shell bill yesterday in the committee. I didn't say my name or spell it. I just was realizing later yesterday. Sorry, Vice Chair.

**WISHART:** That's OK.

**CLEMENTS:** So I'll try to remind you if you forget. With that, we'll begin today's hearing with Agency 16, the Department of Revenue. A representative, please come forward. Welcome.

[AGENCY HEARINGS]

**CLEMENTS:** Do we have any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Are there other testifiers regarding the Nebraska Public Employee Retirement Board budget? Do we have any position comments? No. That concludes Agency 85. Thank you. We will now switch to bill introductions. Just a minute, the committee needs to switch to your other notebook. We will now open the hearing for LB930. Senator Fredrickson.

**FREDRICKSON:** Yes. Hello. Good afternoon. Thank you, Chair Clements and members of the Appropriations Committee. For the record, I am John Fredrickson, J-o-h-n F-r-e-d-r-i-c-k-s-o-n, and I represent District 20, which is in central west Omaha. I'm happy to be here today to introduce LB930, which is an important bill to help address our state's mental and behavioral health workforce shortage. Now if I were a betting man, which I am not for the record, I would bet that this is going to be your favorite bill of the day because I am not asking you for money. So LB930 does not seek any additional appropriation. Rather, it makes an important change to how funds already appropriated by the Legislature may be utilized. There's currently \$400,000 in General Funds appropriated for fiscal year 2023-2024, and \$400,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the University of Nebraska to partner with the-- to partner with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and the Regional Centers to develop programs for students studying to become behavioral health professionals. Such programs include clinical rotations, clinical supervision, stipends, and student coordination and recruitment services. LB930 simply allows these funds to be used by the university to partner with the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers and our county correctional facilities for the same purposes. This is important for a few reasons. First, these facilities and the adults and children within them desperately need behavioral

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

and mental health resources. The work being done through these programs not only provide real time behavioral and mental health services, but they also build a workforce for the future. As you will hear today, trainees who have participated in these programs report high levels of satisfaction with their experience and a large percentage go on to work in public sector settings. Second, by adding YRTCs and county correctional facilities to this appropriation, we are ensuring that rural parts of the state receive greater opportunities to realize the benefits of this program. We know, for instance, that county correctional facilities face many of the same workforce development challenges as our Department of Corrections. They have very limited resources for behavioral and mental health services. I once did my own clinical rotation when I was in graduate school, believe it or not, in a federal prison, and I would have never thought that I would ever work as a mental health provider in that type of a setting. But I personally learned a ton in that experience and I think that's proof that when you have students who are interested in possibly learning how to provide clinical services in different settings, it can spark an interest and maybe even a passion to serve a community where we desperately need more folks serving. So there's some personal story from there behind this as well. So in closing, I ask that you include the important changes in LB930 within our budget this year. Thank you. I'll be happy to answer any questions. And as a reminder, no new money.

**CLEMENTS:** Are there questions from the committee? Senator Vargas.

**VARGAS:** Thank you very much for being here clarifying that you're not a betting man [INAUDIBLE]. So I want to make sure that the Department of Correctional Services, this was expanded to YRTCs and county correctional facilities. Would that include a definition-- like, you know, we have, like, DCYC, you know, detention centers that provide some level of, of transitional and secure detention. Would they also qualify under this definition?

**FREDRICKSON:** So the, the function of this would be to allow for clinical rotations to take place in those settings. So that would-- and, you know, we have folks from the university who will be able to maybe clarify a little bit more, but that would really be up to the academic programs to determine whether that clinical experience would meet the requirements of the degree the student is facing, but.

**VARGAS:** I'll ask them. That would be probably the only other thing I would want to see because YRTCs is defined in statute. We defined it in the past. We've strengthened it over time and YRTCs don't. Like, we

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

have DCYC in Douglas County that doesn't-- that's not the definition of a youth rehabilitation treatment center. At least that's my understanding and I would want to make sure that that would be another avenue where they can provide treatment and support.

**FREDRICKSON:** Sure.

**CLEMENTS:** Other questions? Seeing none,--

**FREDRICKSON:** All right.

**CLEMENTS:** --we will now invite proponents for LB930. Good afternoon.

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Good afternoon, members of the Appropriations Committee. For the record, my name is Erin Schneider, E-r-i-n S-c-h-n-e-i-d-e-r. I am the deputy director of the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska, or BHECN, and I'm appearing today on behalf of the University of Nebraska System in support of LB930. We want to thank Senator Fredrickson for bringing this important issue to the committee. BHECN is a state-funded behavioral health workforce development center housed at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. BHECN's mission is to recruit, train, and retain the state's behavioral health workforce to improve access to behavioral healthcare for all Nebraskans. This includes providing training opportunities in areas of critical need for the state, such as the Department of Corrections and the Regional Centers. There's a chronic shortage of behavioral health providers in correctional settings. As of last week, half of the healthcare jobs at the Department of Corrections were for behavioral health jobs. It is even more dire at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers, where all the job openings were for behavioral health providers. To help alleviate the shortage, in 2017 BHECN was awarded \$400,000 annually from the state's mainline budget to develop and offer clinical rotations to behavioral health trainees at the Department of Correctional Services and the Regional Centers. In addition to receiving a stipend and dedicated supervision, students gain access to training that covers topics relevant to their clinical experiences and resiliency training to manage stress in the workplace. As of spring 2024, 109 trainees have been supported by this funding. The evaluation, conducted by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, reports high levels of trainee satisfaction and that 25% of the trainees were eventually hired in one of these facilities. You can find additional information on the evaluation and the program in the 1-page document I gave you with my testimony. This program has been a success. However, the language of the current statute limits students to only being trained at Department of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

Corrections facilities or the Regional Centers. Since these facilities are primarily located in the eastern part of the state, students in western or rural behavioral health programs are often deterred from participating. Through BHECN's work, we know there is a need and demand for these student placements in greater Nebraska. As a graduate-level counseling student at Chadron State College expressed: Integrating an internship at the county level of corrections would allow every county jails' inmate to receive mental health, regardless of how rural the area may be. It will expose students to an area of counseling that they seldom think about and allow for more future counselors to work in this underserved category. LB930 would expand the current statute to include placements at county correctional facilities and YRTCs across the state without any additional funding requests. This language change better aligns the needs of the state with the needs of students, providing more opportunities for Nebraska to grow our own behavioral health providers for positions that are typically difficult to fill, especially in rural areas of our state. Thank you for your time and attention, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

**CLEMENTS:** Senator Vargas.

**VARGAS:** Thank you much for-- thank you very much for being here.

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Um-hum.

**VARGAS:** Would you just share a little bit about where have these funds gone in the past, like, where-- how they've been-- were the expenditures with the programs--

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Sure.

**VARGAS:** --given that it's been mostly comprised of the Department of Corrections and regional services, there's been stipends and, yeah, so I wanted to give you the opportunity.

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Yeah. It's primarily going to student stipends. So right now, students are receiving \$15,000 to do a placement there over the course of a year. So they're working, you know, roughly half-time there doing their placements. So that's a chunk of the funding. We also have some staffing support at BHECN to be able to facilitate the funding. We've had to use some funding to pay for supervisors because if, if the Department of Corrections or the LRC doesn't have a supervisor type maybe, like, if they don't have a counselor that can supervise students, then we need to pay for a, a contract worker

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

basically to help with that supervision. So that's predominantly public funding is being spent. And then also for the trainings, we have to pay for trainers to do some of these trainings.

**VARGAS:** And do you have-- this is helpful-- any additional information that's stated here about [INAUDIBLE] that the University of Nebraska shall include a report on the outcomes of such recruitment efforts within its biennial budget request submitted in 2020, 2022, so it's just a little outdated-- updates on how this affect-- this \$400,000 has affected recruitment members or retainment-- retaining people?

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Yeah, as I-- as I mentioned in my testimony a, a large chunk of the trainees actually end up-- if they're not going to be in the Department of Corrections or LRC, end up working in public sector. And so, you know, other, other places where we have underserved populations that need to be served. So I think-- I would say I think it's about 50% of the students do go on to do that type of work. I can get you with more detailed information. We actually have a pretty extensive evaluation that, that I could provide if that was of interest.

**VARGAS:** I think that would be helpful. Especially since I don't know how long this has been in the budget, but not for me, but for those that are going to be on the committee in the future years if it's working really well we could fund it more than \$15,000 stipends for \$400,000, at least for some of that. We want-- we have-- in our correctional facilities right now, I can point to a lot-- still FTEs that are vacant. Not, not all of them, but still vacant where we have a need for behavioral mental health specialists. Just one more question, Chairman?

**CLEMENTS:** Sure.

**VARGAS:** I know asked this of Senator Fredrickson, I don't know if you know that if there's any detention centers that are currently, if, if they would qualify, under this definition. And if not, you know, if we can?

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Yeah, I-- I'm not sure. I think it would depend on, you know, if they would be considered a county correctional facility. Right?

**VARGAS:** Yeah. I think that's kind of loose because they're not considered correctional,--

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Yeah.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

**VARGAS:** --that they would be a county facility, so it might be just including that, that, that part.

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Sure.

**VARGAS:** Thank you very much for being here.

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Um-hum. Thank you.

**CLEMENTS:** Senator Dorn.

**DORN:** Thank you, Senator Clements. Thank you for being here. I, I guess my question is, if it's \$400,000, I believe, and it's no new funding so can you update us a little bit on has this been fully used over the-- over the time or, or why is it maybe a new part of it to be used? Are we fully using all \$400,000 every year?

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Now we are. So--

**DORN:** Now you are?

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Yeah. So I think-- you know, it ebbs and flows depending on the type of staffing that they have at the facilities, because that's-- it limits the number of students that they can accept. And so in some years if we aren't able to, to expend all the money then we use it to do additional trainings for the students. Right? So I think it-- right now, though, I, I think-- we, we are developing some online training modules to help offset some of the cost. So we won't have to be paying an ongoing payment to, to trainers who can use online modules for some of these trainings. Right? So we can use some of that funding to pay for some of these county-level correctional students. Right? So I think-- yeah, we figured out ways to, to make it work.

**DORN:** Thank you.

**CLEMENTS:** Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

**ERIN SCHNEIDER:** Thank you.

**CLEMENTS:** Are there additional proponents for LB930? Seeing none, is there anyone in opposition of LB930? Seeing none, is there anyone caring to testify in the neutral capacity? Seeing none, would you like to close, Senator?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

**FREDRICKSON:** I'll just super quick say thank you for listening for-- thank you for being here for the-- for the hearing. Senator Vargas, I just want to quickly say I was speaking with my staff, we'd be happy if the committee wishes to proceed to have clarifying language to include the detention facilities. We could look into it if that's a possibility. Happy to include that. So, just wanted to share that. Yeah.

**CLEMENTS:** Any questions? Seeing none, thank you.

**FREDRICKSON:** All right. Thank you so much.

**CLEMENTS:** We have position comments for the record on LB930. We have 4 proponents, no opponents, and none in the neutral capacity. That will conclude the hearing for LB930. We'll now open the hearing for the LB1242. Senator McDonnell.

**McDONNELL:** Thank you, Chairman Clements and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Mike McDonnell, M-i-k-e M-c-D-o-n-n-e-l-l. I represent Legislative District 5, south Omaha. LB1242, which seeks to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time: water scarcity. Nebraska, like many other areas, is experiencing increasing stress on our water resources. Residential and agricultural demands are driving wells deeper, signaling a looming crisis that demands our immediate attention. LB1242 proposes a forward-thinking solution: a \$350,000 appropriation from General Funds for a critical study on the viability of using roof-collected rainwater as a sustainable and safe source of drinking water. This initiative is not just about conservation, it's about innovation and adaptability in the face of environmental challenges. The study will, will delve into the effectiveness of various filtration and purification technologies in removing both chemical and biological contaminants from rainwater. Our aim is to transfer this age-old method of water collection into a reliable, modern-day solution for household water needs. By doing so, we need only conserve precious groundwater resources for agriculture, but also pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future for our communities. The implications of this research extend far beyond academic interest. Should this study prove successful, it could revolutionize the way Nebraskans think about the use of water, transitioning from reliance on traditional water sources to embracing the alternative, sustainable methods that could significantly reduce household water consumption and alleviate pressure on our state's water infrastructure. I urge this committee to recognize the potential of LB1242 to set a precedent for water resource management not just in Nebraska, but across the



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

nation. By supporting this bill, we are taking a decisive step toward sustainable innovation and stewardship of our natural resources. I'm ready to engage in further discussion and address any of your questions you may have. This is a vital piece of the legislation. Here today is, is-- to testify is Bing Chen from the University of Nebraska College of Engineering. Bing will talk about this project and give you a little background on the state of the art assisted dwelling unit that he has been having students develop and-- to test the limits of sustainability. I just want to make sure, so I-- Professor Chen is here because I invited him. And so I want to make sure that the university understands I asked him to be here. When we had an opportunity-- and, and you're going to-- he's going to give you a handout. This, this small home right now is over on the University of Nebraska at Omaha's campus. It's over by the, the baseball facility. So you all would have an opportunity to go through and, and do a walk-through like I did. When we were doing this, this walk-through, and he was going through all of, of the things the students were working on. All of the time, years he has spent his own dollars and raising it from a number of different people and how important this was to our future in sustainable drinking water. I really was excited. And, and Bing is the type of person that when you meet and you have a discussion with, you learn something new every time. And he's passionate about it. And so I just want to make sure that he wasn't giving me the tour for me to-- this was my idea and the idea of assisting him in any way we can, but also recognizing the work he's done, the students and the sweat equity they've put in. And, again, potentially, what this could do for, for our state and, the world if, if this is successful. So I'm here to answer your questions, but I'm also excited for you to really hear from, from Bing Chen and, and, and get his, his thoughts. And, and it's, it's exciting. It's exciting for our, our future.

**CLEMENTS:** Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none at this time.

**McDONNELL:** I will be here to close.

**CLEMENTS:** We'll-- OK. We'll have you to close. And we'd like next proponent. And did you have a green testifier sheet?

**McDONNELL:** I'll get it.

**CLEMENTS:** Good afternoon.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

**BING CHEN:** Good afternoon. Thank you all so much for allowing me to come here and, and visit with you. It's always a, a thrill for me to have the opportunity to address the senators of our state. I guess I'm supposed to spell my name for the record.

**CLEMENTS:** Yes.

**BING CHEN:** It's B-i-n-g C-h-e-n. So the-- I thank Senator McDonnell for being my sponsor in making this request to you. What is coming around to you is a little bit of a descriptor of our project which will give you some ideas of what we've been trying to do here. I have been involved with renewable energy research for now, 5 decades. In the mid '70s, I started a project to work with Los Alamos scientific laboratories to prove that passive solar energy would be successful in the state. And we proved it. And so that was our initial efforts here. Since that time, I have been involved with a number of projects. And about 2011, I thought, you know, what do you want to try to do for a last project for your last hurrah. And I started reading about the small house movement in California for children to be able to take care of their aging parents. And I thought, gee, Nebraska has a pretty substantial senior population, perhaps we could look at a small house as our last project for me to work on. And so I observed the, the development over a 5-year period. And in 2015, I said we're ready. And in that period, we had designed a few mock-ups of a small house. And I said the time has come. They're going to be 60 million of us at the end of this decade, and quite a few here in Nebraska. And I said let's build a small house on steroids-- let us use everything I've learned in the last 50 years at NREL, where I was a consultant for 10 years-- in this building and let's make it ADA compliant. So our partner on this project is the School of Gerontology at UNO. With my own background, I said let's build a building that meets the 2050 IEA energy standards. And so this building may be among the first in the whole state that will be truly net zero, off-grid capable, and carbon zero. We added another component, which is the gist of today's visit with you, which is to say we realize that there are now potential water issues facing the state of Nebraska. In fact, I have this, which I'm happy to leave with you, which is an article in the Denver Post expose on the 6.5 million gallons a day that are of PFAS, arsenic and benzene, flowing into a little creek that feeds the South Platte River. This was very, very concerning to me when I saw it, and I'm happy to leave it with you. And I thought if I ever have the opportunity, I'm going to share this article with our state senators, because I know we're going to build this canal and I hope it's not a canal that connects with the Suncor chemical plant in north Denver. But I'm-- I have, shall we say, I have these concerns. Water to me

is-- if you don't have water, you are really destitute. And I think that what we're trying to show with our project is can we incorporate roof-collected rainwater, much like our forebears did in an earlier century? In essence, it's a modern update. Let's try it again. See how pure is that water that we have collected? How safe is it to drink? To drink, not just to water your lawns, but actually of a drinking quality much like our great grandparents had in an earlier era. I'm, I'm-- I, I think they were a lot wiser and they were a lot hardier here in terms of figuring out solutions that met their particular time. And I think the time is coming for us as well. And I thought, let's take a look and see what we can do to work on this. Initially, I have-- if you look at the pictures, you will see our little small house on the prairie, I call it, it has solar collectors on top. And the initial part was, are we somehow perhaps endangering ourselves because PV arrays have heavy, heavy, heavy metals that can be associated with them. None of them are healthy for us. So that was the first part of why I was interested in if we're going to use roof-collected rainwater, we have to understand that we may have a PV array on top of it as well. So that's what started it. And then in encountering my colleagues in biology and chemistry, other questions started to come to play. Well, besides heavy chemicals, Bing, what about biological contaminants, bird droppings, mosquitoes? And I said, oh, wow, guess better talk to biology. And so we put together a small coalition of faculty that said, you know, Bing, I can look for bacteria. I can also look for viruses, and I can also look for amoeba. And I don't know if you're aware of, but last year was the first case of a person in Florida who got amoebic poisoning from his own city water. That really woke me up and I said, you know, I realize this is Florida. And, of course, that young child who caught ill in Iowa, that just reinforced my concern about making certain that if we're going to try this that we have successfully answered all the potential questions that could exist. Then by accident that this spring, as I was getting ready to go give a talk to the Department of Energy on our sustainable small house, I happened to encounter Chancellor Gold and he said so, Bing, what have you been working on? And I gave him an idea. He said interesting project. You know, I suggest you check for other things. I said what is that, Chancellor? He said check for nitrates and pesticides, you know, especially in the spring much of these become airborne. And if there's rainfall, it can capture both nitrates and pesticides. I said I hear you. We just added nitrates and pesticides to the-- to the total. You've all probably started hearing about the, the issues, not only nitrates, but also about PFAS and microplastics. The adjoining state, Michigan, has found half of its drinking wells for, for water are contaminated. Recently, there was an

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

article from Minnesota saying that the pristine Boundary Waters have-- they have now started finding pollution within the Boundary Waters themselves. I don't know how many of you have had a chance to, to canoe that. That, to me, is one of the places that I think it should be our sanctuary. If we go there, we should be able to drink the water like I did 10 years ago. So in our-- in terms of the system solution that we're looking at, the last page shows you the filtration network that we are considering. And it turns out, what we're going to be looking at is sampling the water at each stage from the roof through the first filtration system into the cistern itself, and then at each stage all the way to the top. And what we want to do is compare each of these in the step-by-step process and have biology department and chemistry departments show which things have we managed to get rid of and filter out. If we're successful, we will have, I think, a-- you said a modern-day solution to reutilizing and reintroducing the idea of rainwater roof-collection systems into a cistern. I think that the-- that the incorporation of water is a significant portion of at least what we're proposing here to you today. But we have so many different projects, and I have at least 6 to 10 senior capstone projects from electrical and computer engineering looking at all different types of things, including the water control systems that we're designing.

**CLEMENTS:** Oh, I'm gonna ask you to conclude there, and we'll see if we'll have--

**BING CHEN:** Sure.

**CLEMENTS:** --questions from the committee.

**BING CHEN:** So if you have any questions, I'd be happy to, to answer them.

**CLEMENTS:** Senator Lippincott.

**LIPPINCOTT:** On this mechanism right here at the home, is it electric driven or is it gravity?

**BING CHEN:** It's electric driven by our PV system. So we have 12 kilowatts-- we will have a potential of 12 kilowatts of electrical power available to us into 30 kilowatt hours of battery storage at the present time once we complete the PV installation on the roof. So, yes, it's electric driven.

**CLEMENTS:** Senator Dover.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

**DOVER:** Yeah, my daughter's living on our great grandparents' farm, we have a large cistern in [INAUDIBLE].

**BING CHEN:** I'm sorry?

**DOVER:** My daughter is currently living on my great grandparents' farm that has a large cistern.

**BING CHEN:** So if we're successful, one of the questions we have is not only the efficacy, but what is the cost involved? What kind of recurring costs do you have for, for instance, the filters. And one of the things that concerns me, yes, if we're all to use this, that it would be safe. But what do we do with the filters? Are we-- and so-- and so that's another ongoing study. How do we make certain the filters in the landfill aren't poisoning our groundwater? So these are all, I call it, second, second water questions that enter my mind as we develop this.

**CLEMENTS:** Senator Dorn.

**DORN:** Thank you, Senator Clements. Thank you for being here. Interesting on this diagram what Senator Lippincott showed you there, you, you have a holding tank that says 1,725 gallons, I guess. This house or how many people are you looking at and then how long-- sometimes we hit--

**BING CHEN:** It's--

**DORN:** --July and August and we don't get much rain, how long of a time period will this--

**BING CHEN:** So you're correct. That's all the money we had left for the cistern.

**DORN:** OK.

**BING CHEN:** If, if I had an unlimited budget, it would have probably been closer to 3,000 to 5,000 gallons. So, so how much water would we collect? With our-- with our roof surface area, in one year, I estimate with 31 inches per year in Omaha, 24,000 gallons. The average consumption is about 100 gallons per person per day, which comes out to 36,500 gallons. And so we have-- there's not enough time to go into this-- we have a number of water-conserving devices in here, including donated low-flow toilet flushes. And, in essence, you can't turn on the water spigot and just leave it on. It'll turn off. You have to have your hand underneath it to get it to work. Can we reduce? And

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

toilets are a big use of those and I didn't talk about our retention pond that we're going to have for excess water that's collected. So if you ever have the opportunity of coming to Omaha, I invite each and every one of you to, to come and, and visit us at the test facility.

**DORN:** Thank you.

**CLEMENTS:** Other questions?

**BING CHEN:** And I can leave this with you if anybody would like to read this, because this was something I told one of my friends who gave me this article in Denver. He said I, I will try to get this to share it with our state leaders just in case they may have an interest in this.

**CLEMENTS:** Could you give us the address, location for the small house?

**BING CHEN:** I'm sorry?

**CLEMENTS:** Where is the small house located at?

**BING CHEN:** Oh, it's-- you know where the new ball fields are at UNO?

**CLEMENTS:** Yes.

**BING CHEN:** We're right behind it.

**CLEMENTS:** Baxter Arena?

**BING CHEN:** We are-- there is a medical facility called the Think Building, which is about 350 feet north of Center Street. We are the exact same distance south of Center Street, around 70th and Center Street.

**CLEMENTS:** OK.

**BING CHEN:** And I can--I'm happy to send you the directions you-- because you could get lost.

**CLEMENTS:** We can get those from Senator McDonnell.

**MCDONNELL:** Yeah, I got them here.

**CLEMENTS:** Are there any other questions? Seeing none, thank you--

**BING CHEN:** Thank you very much.

**CLEMENTS:** --for your testimony.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

**ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

**CLEMENTS:** Senator McDonnell, would you like to close?

**McDONNELL:** Yes. Again, you can see Bing's passion for this project. We'll get you a breakdown of, of every dollar that he's raised so far, how it's been spent, why we're asking for the \$350,000 to complete it, the time frame. He, again, has years invested in this and I just appreciate him and the students that have worked on this project. And when you do go there at the, the stadium and do the, the walk-through and, and understand the potential and the work they've done and the problems they're trying to solve. So you're all invited to please come to Omaha and take a look at it. I will either buy your breakfast or lunch, depending on what part of the day you're there. But Bing is someone that I really think is so dedicated to our state and the future and the next generation of, of trying to do things, possibly learning from the past, and doing something special for the future, so. I appreciate your time.

**CLEMENTS:** Any other questions? How much water does a person drink in a year?

**McDONNELL:** How much water does a person drink in a year?

**VARGAS:** Drink or consume?

**CLEMENTS:** Consume.

**McDONNELL:** How much--

**CLEMENTS:** Use.

**VARGAS:** That's a lot more.

**CLEMENTS:** Use-- drink.

**VARGAS:** That's a lot more.

**CLEMENTS:** Use.

**BING CHEN:** I drink at least a gallon a day.

**CLEMENTS:** OK.

**McDONNELL:** Well--

**ARMENDARIZ:** Times 365.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Appropriations Committee February 1, 2024

**McDONNELL:** --and his is just water. I maybe mix mine with something. We will get you that average.

**WISHART:** You should-- you should be drinking 80 to 100 ounces a day.

**CLEMENTS:** All right. Seeing no other questions, thank you,--

**McDONNELL:** Thank you.

**CLEMENTS:** --Senator McDonnell. And do we have any position statements? There are no position statements. Is there anyone here in opposition? Anyone here in the neutral capacity? Seeing none, that concludes LB1242.