

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 18, 2002 LB 1086, 1115

return this bill of mine, strike everything from it, and insert the contents of LB 1115, Senator Aguilar's bill which you all advanced last night after voting cloture. I saw a picture in the Lincoln Journal Star this morning of a very dedicated senator working hard at his desk, but that's not what caught my attention. There is some textual material, and I want to skim through it to see if they correctly represented what Senator Aguilar had said. Working well into Wednesday, Aguilar of Grand Island became the first senator to use the new cloture rule to stop a day of filibusters by Chambers. Senators showed their frustration by voting with Aguilar to stop debate and force a vote on the bill. There were only minutes left before a deadline on bills sitting in the second of three rounds of approval. Quote from senator, "It was the longest day and almost the most frustrating day I've ever had here," said Aguilar. "I appreciate Senator Chambers standing up for people he believes are discriminated against, but I know the people who worked for years on this bill, and I know how much work I put into it to have it just go away until next year." Aguilar's bill advanced, but before key amendments could be attached, and Aguilar had to kill the bill himself. "I was so happy, but there is a technicality, and there isn't time to fix it." The measure would have provided for a drug court in Hall County and give statutory language to the seven existing drug courts. I'd like to ask Senator Aguilar a question or two.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator, would you respond?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes, I will.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Aguilar, were you still in the Chamber when the bill after yours came up, and I made a remark about the vote having been cast being the stupidest vote that my colleagues had cast?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes, I was.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Did you hear me say the bill is unworkable, and it cannot be fixed? Do you remember me saying that?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Something to that effect.