

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

January 21, 2004 LB 602

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We now go to General File. Mr. Clerk, next bill.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, LB 602 is a bill originally introduced by Senator Smith. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21 of last year, at that time was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to the floor. There are committee amendments pending. The committee amendments were offered on May 5. Senator Schimek offered an amendment to the committee amendments that was offered on May 5. Senator Chambers offered a priority motion, that being to recommit the bill to the Judiciary Committee. That was offered and is pending. And subsequent to that, Mr. President, there was a motion, a unanimous consent request to bracket the bill until this year. So Mr. President, the first motion before the Legislature this morning, Senator Chambers' motion to recommit to Judiciary.

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 602.

**SENATOR SMITH:** Thank you, Mr. President and members. I want to give a brief update, since we haven't debated LB 602 for a while. As the Clerk mentioned, it was introduced last year. We had committee amendments in May. We ran out of time by the end of session last spring. To refresh the memory of the body, LB 602 is a ban on human cloning. This does not ban animal cloning. It does not ban research using stem cells, such as umbilical cord blood, a host of many, many, many other sources of research material. I will be very clear and concise in telling you that the debate will come down to the disposition of an embryo. Cloning creates an embryo. We've heard therapeutic cloning, we've heard about reproductive cloning. I would say it's nearly unanimous that reproductive cloning...a ban on reproductive cloning would be acceptable. And I raise the issue, how effective would a ban on reproductive cloning be if it's virtually unenforceable and there are so many loopholes and other issues surrounding it that it's just not a practical situation without a ban on all human cloning. There are embryos that exist now that many folks do not want destroyed, even though they weren't created via cloning. We have issues