

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

March 5, 2004 LB 75

SENATOR JONES: Well, thank you anyway. Because he passed all the background check and everything like that, but when he went to the training to get certified afterwards, well, he had an accident and hurt a knee, so he couldn't go through it. So then his time run out before he got the test taken. So he's serving up there as sheriff with no pay, because the eight months has run out. So it's kind of a funny situation. But you didn't take that out though. Okay, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Louden, on the Hudkins amendment.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I guess when we do legislation like this, I'm always somewhat uneasy. I thought the ballot box was supposed to be the judge of whether or not the person was qualified for the position. Just because they go through that course down there to...for the criminal justice course, whatever it's called, doesn't necessarily mean that they're going to be better people or better sheriff. I've seen many a sheriff that had never went through anything like that and I thought they were very well-respected men, and women, for that matter. I've seen some of the folks that have went through those courses and they'd really certainly scare the heck out of you. So I really wonder why we have to have something like this. It looks like to me that if we're going to set it up so that a person has to be qualified to hold a certain county job, then that job should be hired by either the county commissioners, it should...they should be hired for the job or some other situation, so that the qualifications can be looked at before they're put on the job. This is an elected official. And should it really...I don't feel that it's really right that we should set up qualifications that if they don't meet those qualifications that they wouldn't be able to fulfill their elected position. When they take these tests and they...you talk about some of them that failed the test, is there certain parts of the test they pass and some of them...some parts they fail? Do we know how the tests are put together and what parts and how they're made so we know which...what parts they failed? I mean, just if...did they fail because they were a poor gun shot, or did they fail because they couldn't read and write? There would be quite a difference on