

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2004 LB 37, 1231A

SENATOR CUDABACK: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 1231A pass? All in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read. Legislative Journal page 1637.) The vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 1231A passes. Mr. Clerk, LB 37.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB 37, Senator Vrtiska would move to return the bill to Select File for a specific amendment, that being to strike the enacting clause. (FA1696, Legislative Journal page 1637.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to open on your motion to return to Select File.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President. I put this motion up not to stop the bill, but I just had to make a few comments. I just wanted to let you know that this bill came up a year ago, and Lorelee Byrd, who was then the State Treasurer, came and talked to me about it, and she compared it to the college savings plan, which is a good plan, has been working very well. I guess I just wanted to take a minute to talk to you about what I consider the costs. If you look at the fiscal note on it, the costs show that it will be about \$10,400 for ongoing costs...or I mean for start-up costs, and \$2,600 a year for ongoing cost, with the State Treasurer's estimates will be \$77,000 a year to hire the people to manage this program. And if you look at the deductibility of the contribution they made, it will amount to about \$92,000 the first year, and \$276,000 possibly next year, depending on how many people decide to enroll in this plan. And of course, any of these plans have no certainty, because nobody at this point knows how many are going to participate. And so it's kind of an open-ended thing. I guess the only question that I have--and this bothers me--I voted this out of committee. And after I looked at what the costs were and what the potential ongoing cost, the thought came to me, is this the right time?