

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 28, 2005

LB 645

LR 96

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Really, the amendment does two things. It says we start over, at the end date of the...the end of the current moratorium in the bill. December 31, 2007, everything is off. That gives some pressure to the process, to make sure that we work hard to come up with the best answers. But it does allow a retail ban, right now, that actually does something. It would stop actions that are going on right now, that it...power companies selling Internet, things like that. There's a roll out of a new satellite system that is going to be less expensive by about half than other satellites, and a lot of power districts have talked about being a part of that. And this would actually stop them from doing that. So this is a real ban. But I think that we have to keep the pressure on the system, to make sure that we make good decisions, that we don't give too much weight to one side or the other of this debate, so that we don't come up with good solutions in the future. The other side of this would allow wholesale operations that could possibly happen within this time period to go forward. I don't think that we ought to have retail competition between public entities and telecom companies, and so I strongly believe that we have to pass that. But I don't think we ought to go farther than that. I think that if that was in place for the time period while the study is going on, I think that will do some good. It will actually stop...it will actually change the way business is done in certain areas. It's something I think the public entities have all agreed to, that they'll stop selling on a retail basis, but that we ought to go ahead and say at the end of the study, that we will start over again, and figure out where this is. That will give pressure to the study, to do good work and come up with solutions in this really complicated area of legislation. Once again, it does two things. It start over December 31, 2007, and it allows wholesale that Senator Brashear's amendment does not.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk, items for the record, please. Yes.

CLERK: Mr. President, a new resolution, LR 96, offered by Senator Byars, calling for an interim study, that will be