

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006 LB 489

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 489, discussed briefly earlier this afternoon on Select File, Enrollment and Review amendments were considered and adopted. The first amendment I have to the bill, Senator Wehrbein, I have AM2941, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to pull these. I have two and one of them is...the one is drafted one way and one is drafted another. But I am going to pull these. This has to do with merging of the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Labor inspection service, elevator inspection service and the Fire Marshal. This was introduced originally into the Government Affairs Committee by Senator Cunningham. I thought it was a very good idea and to me it's very logical that we would merge these two, both departments, both agencies were in favor of this, both testified for it, both do very similar things across the state. There's difficulty in scheduling many times with the two organizations. They cross paths in many cases as they move across the state. They use two vehicles in many cases going across the state. So it made very logical sense to me that we would do this. And I think it's a very good idea. And it's one of my concerns as I leave here that this, something like this so logical, in my mind, this cannot and will not be done. Frankly, the matter is it could not get out of committee. It was a 4-4 tie; we tried three times. It did not get out of committee and so I guess it would logically take 30 votes to get it up here. So and the same...for future concerns, I wanted to call it to the attention of the body. I think it's one of the many things that we could do and...to make state government more efficient. Initially, I wouldn't say that it necessarily would save money. But it would, I think, accommodate the people better because many of these inspections are done for the same project but they're done by different departments. I have a study in on another department, Public Service Commission warehouse inspections by the Department of Ag. I think there's some things that can be done in state government that would be useful and more efficient. But it is not to be today for this particular issue, and so I would ask to withdraw it.