

prison system. The more people we put into the prison systems, the more overloaded we are. We're already at about 160 percent of capacity at this particular point. I think the body has got to keep a couple things in mind. If we're going to pass stronger sentences and put more people in for a longer period of time, we either (a) need to come up with the money to spend for it or (b) be willing to say that we need to spend a tremendous more amount of money on prison and increasing the amount of prison space that we have at this particular point. We already are obligated to spending money for two prisons, one maximum and one medium security, in the next few years and I think the body needs to keep those things in mind. I'd also like to ask Senator Abboud another quick question. To your knowledge, is there a long delay in sexual offenders in the penitentiary receiving the proper amount of treatment?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Abboud, when you answer, make sure you talk directly in the microphone. We had a little trouble picking up the last one. Thank you.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Senator Baack. Really, it depends on the individual and what type of sentence the judge imposed. Most of the time they go through a treatment right at the beginning. I shouldn't say treatment, I should say an evaluation of that individual on sexual offenses. The state realizes that these types of individuals are more likely to commit these crimes a second and subsequent time so they usually go right in for an evaluation right up front. That doesn't necessarily translate into treatment but if the psychiatrist that discussed this with this individual usually, hopefully, involves them in some sort of treatment, but they do go through an evaluation at the initial...after the initial term that you spend in the prison.

SENATOR BERNAPD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Abboud. I bring these questions up basically because of a committee that I was on two summers ago chaired by Senator Hannibal and that was a study of the prison system in general. In essence, what I think the body needs to remember is (a) we have a tremendous amount of overcrowding. The more mandated sentences we put, the more we exacerbate that particular situation and the more we're going to have to spend on the other end. And the other thing that became very clear to that subcommittee that met is that the amount of treatment available to the criminals that are going in is simply not adequate, that many are actually coming out and eligible for