

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

April 19, 1999 LB 637

to be a good deal. And it's only...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...just one of the things that's yet to come, and I hope that you keep that in mind.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Don Pederson, on the bracket motion to LB 637.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I really couldn't agree more with Senator Kristensen or Senator Matzke, and they're at the opposite sides of this issue. The problem is that we do have frustration here in that we have a current system that really works adequately, but we have a federal government that said generally the states don't have that, and they apply it to all of the states. And the concern is, well, wait a minute, they can't do that to us. Folks, they've done it. This is what has happened, and this is a mandate that the government has issued. We have to act on this by October of this year, or we face consequences. What are those consequences? I attended an ALEC meeting this weekend. The predominant member of the Senate, in Ohio, was there next to me, and I said, what's your experience with this? He said, well we fought it, we didn't like this idea. And I said, how did it work out? He said, we're cutting a check for \$12 million because we didn't get ours in, in time. So, speaking as a fiscally responsible Legislature, I think we need to study what are our options. It isn't whether we like the law, it isn't whether we have a currently good system. The question is, what is best for our constituents? And I question whether it's best for our constituents to say let's just go ahead and ignore this proposal, let's just go ahead and pay out whatever we may have to pay in the way of fines. I don't think that's a fiscally responsible way to look at this. Certainly, I do not believe that it's appropriate for us in the time frames that we're talking about, in the dollars that we're talking about, to bracket this matter at this point. For that reason, I'm going to object to the bracket. I think it's premature. I would like to find out, and I've asked the people out in the lobby that are interested in this, I've said, what is our alternative? And I think I haven't really seen what the alternative is, but I do