

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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whoever is going to make assignments of youngsters on this...under this bill will do it more effectively than a judge from the standpoint of what's in the best interest of the child. If we turn it over to a state agency, which is controlled by whichever administration is in office at that time, is there going to be more concern about how much it's going to cost if we provide appropriate care and treatment for these children? I read a disturbing comment from the Governor this morning when the discussion was being had about treatment for inmates who have drug and alcohol problems. He's looking only at the money. He wants somebody to prove to him that for every dollar spent in this area seven dollars will be saved by the state. Well, how can you prove something like that when it hasn't even happened here? He wanted to mention a \$20 million figure being spent on substance abuses. If I read the article correctly, he and everybody acknowledged that about 5 percent of that money is being used in the adult and the juvenile systems. Well, if 5 percent is all that's being used, why would we not spend more money in that area since from 60 to 85 percent of the people locked up have drug and alcohol problems? Those are some of the matters that I will want to explore when we get to the main part of the bill. I think this will probably be the first green vote I have cast on this bill and Senator Thompson should consider that progress.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. We are discussing the Thompson amendment, AM2526, to LB 652. There are no lights on. Senator Thompson, did you wish to close? Senator Thompson waives closing. The question before the body is, shall AM2526 be adopted to LB 652? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Thompson's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thompson amendment to LB 652 is adopted. We are now discussing the bill itself to advancement. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: I'll just give you a quick review of this bill and then I'd be happy to answer questions that people have.