

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

February 25, 2000 LB 652

youth convicted under the age of 18 shall be placed in this facility. So if you wanted to take a snapshot of what's going on today at the facility or actually December 15th at the facility, which is when I have the statistics for, there was one fifteen-year-old, six sixteen-year-olds, twenty seventeen-year-olds, and...oh, actually, this is the whole correctional system, pardon me, and sixty-three eighteen-year-olds. The way it would work for the facility is if you were convicted when you were under 18, you would be in this...placed in this facility and you may...and...so if you are 17 when you're convicted, you can stay till you're 19. If you're 16 when you're convicted, you could stay till you were 19. So they will age...age out to when they would be transferred to the adult system. Right now, they're transferring 18-year-olds when they turn 19, so that's already the way operationally it's working. But that will free up placements for youth that have severe and chronic problems in the juvenile system to be able to be placed in this facility. This is part of the recommendation of the Facility Master Plan that we, as a Legislature, appropriated \$150,000 last year to do, and what the facility plan said is you need a place that is secure for public safety but also you can provide treatment for those severe and chronic offenders--what could be provided at this facility, because it was built as a treatment center. It's built in pods. It has room for staff. It has a dayroom. It's extremely expensive construction. This is not generalized housing unit construction.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: The youth...the facility cannot be accessed by the juvenile system if it is under the adult system, under federal law, but if we go back to what the 1994 Legislature did and say this facility is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile system, if they choose to they can contract with the adult system and they can serve juveniles, under federal law, who are convicted before age 18, in this facility and they can serve the severe, chronic youth with...excuse me, the chronic youth with severe problems and more violent offenses in this facility also. And we can provide treatment and some of the A bill will have some additional funding to be able to provide, as Senator Chambers referenced the report yesterday, additional substance