

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

March 21, 2000 LB 1217

thinking, but I got to say I'm pretty flexible on this. I'm a pretty flexible guy, generally. One, it seems to me that developing options probably does not need a task force to do this. I mean it's...the agenda idea itself is not bad; the task force I'm not sure is a mechanism I feel a great deal of enthusiasm about, but it's not the end of the world. Secondly, I was concerned that there was a mixing of state employees, employees of the university system, which are logically part of one mechanism, with other employees as well--community colleges, and then I think we'd have to say schools and cities and counties are probably in there since the language, if I understand, says, and other political subdivisions. I'm not sure that since we have multiple levels of government with that language that working out a mechanism would be very effective since you'd have two levels that it was working under. One would be the state employees that you could get to in one way, although frankly I'm not sure you can get to this...to the university in that way given Exon v. Board of Regents, and then you've got the local folks, so that the task force is called together...now they're really...it's not...it's not apples and oranges, but it is at least two different species of apples, which I think makes the task force's work a little more difficult. Lastly, and, Curt, I think you get a chance to respond directly to this and so let me tell you, about three years ago you brought in a bill and it was...it was seen, and I think you felt wronged by this, but it was seen as a run on the teachers' health system and it didn't last very long. It disappeared. It was a...I'm not sure that you were given a fair description of what you were after in the (laugh)...in the disposition of that, but I would like to know if this is another way of getting to that end and I'm going to put that on the table. So let me...let me summarize. There's some negativity on the issues, five to three to come out of committee. For myself, as one of the "no" votes, I'm not sure why we need a task force. Study, yes; task force, I'm not sure I understand.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: Secondly, I'm not sure why we link all public employees when you wouldn't be able to deliver a system that would respond to all those people. And, third, does this bear a relationship to the teachers' health insurance agenda of the