

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 22, 2000 LB 171

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. We are debating the advancement of LB 171 to E & R for engrossing. Senator Wickersham, Senator Lynch, and Senator Landis. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, at the moment, I think there's anything...it would be hard to say anything new about this bill, so I'm not going to try to say anything new about this bill. What I do want to remind you about is why this is such a bad bill, why this is such a bad bill and how...why, aside from anything that Senator Chambers had to say, it will cause you so much trouble if it's adopted by this body. What I'm talking about isn't politics. What I want you to think about is not politics. I want you to think about policy. I want you to think about what you're going to do the next time some other business comes to you with the same plaint. What are you going to do? And how many millions is that next plaint going to cost? And will there be anything left for juvenile justice or the other priorities that the state might have? How are you going to answer those others with that plaint? How would you answer Senator Baker or people like Senator Baker? How are you going to answer them? Are you going to answer to them that the broadcasters are more special than you are? Is that going to be your answer? Or is your answer going to be that it was 5:23 in the evening and I was tired and I kind of forgot what I was doing and I'm never going to do that again? I don't know how you're going to answer, but you better think of one if you're going to vote to advance this bill, because it will be back and I don't know, because this bill got out of the Revenue Committee, whether the Revenue Committee will be able to protect you from having to vote again on something like this and having to spend money that then you might not want to spend. So though...and I suppose that is another good point and it's a point that's been kind of made here once this afternoon. The Revenue Committee has protected you from these kinds of votes. We have kind of protected you from yourself, in some instances, and maybe the state. The Revenue Committee has been able to do that. This bill kind of got away. But now it's up to you to save us. It's no longer up to the Revenue Committee to save us or you. It's up to you to save us from ever having to answer this kind of a question again. Now, on a broader base, aside from that policy issue, is this a good idea