

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

March 27, 2000 LB 352

Senator Lynch, your light is the last one on. Senator Crosby, would you like to close?

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to thank everyone for having this discussion this morning. I think it's been a good one. And, Senator Jensen, thank you for saying at the end what I wanted to say at my beginning here, is that, yes, you can come back, you can come back. Just because you don't have a sunset doesn't mean that you can't look at a program and see if it's working well. We have a Performance Review Committee, and I might remind you that the only way you get anything changed in the statutes is by introducing a bill, right? You can't just come around and have the bill drafters draw something up and change the statutes. You have to bring it to the Legislature, and you have to have a hearing so, yes, you can do that. And I want to point out again about the employment, that in the states where they have the separate agency for the blind, employment has gone up and the employment is significant. Also, blindness comes to everyone...a spectrum of ages. It's not just old people that go blind. These people that are working on this bill right now are all young people. And it's very significant to me, there again, that it's a rehabilitation, not a medical problem. And when you look at that money in the memo that we gave you, the memorandum that we gave you as to the match across the agencies, that's soft match. All agencies do that. That's the way you leverage federal and/or grant money, so that's a mechanism that is used by all of the agencies. The other thing I want to say is that it's easy enough to go along and do nothing when people ask you to do. I'm pleased that the blind people came to me and I have been working on this, as I said, at least for six years. But one of the things...the quickest way to kill a good idea is to say, well, we can't do that, or we can't change that because that's the way we've always done it. Come on, people, let's have a little courage today. And I hope all of you who helped me on General File, and I do appreciate everything that each one of you has said, will vote again today and move the bill along to Final Reading. Thank you. I would like a call of the house and a roll call vote.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. The question is, shall the house go under call? Those in favor vote aye,