

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

January 31, 2003 LB 357

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, we don't get the money. (Laugh)

SENATOR BEUTLER: Pardon me?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: We don't get the money. That would be part of it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Here's what...there are three or four things that I'm just somewhat fearful of, and one has to do with the whole situation of the federal government. They're starting to run huge deficits. Maybe there would be an outcry from the states if this money were not forthcoming. On the other hand, maybe they would backtrack and back down on their requirements, either the time lines or the requirement, period. It just seems premature for the federal government to mandate something to us without giving us the money first, and then we proceed to do that. Unless there's some significant penalty other than not getting the money, why not wait until they give us the money?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, Senator Beutler, we wouldn't start implementing this until we got the money. I mean that is why we wrote into the bill, no General Funds will be used for implementation.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But you're telling me it's a federal mandate.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That is correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So if it's a federal mandate and the implementation date is January 1, 2004, what you're saying is we're going to ignore the mandate unless we have the money.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I guess that's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. If we can ignore the mandate until we have the money, why not ignore the mandate until we have the money?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, because I think we will have the money. I mean I feel virtually certain about that first \$5 million. I think that's...if I can look at counsel, I think that's