

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 4, 2003 LB 72

at the fair, and the discussion has been about how poorly the fair has done. Well, I indicated the other day and I think it's very true, a business that's been failing for several years gets new management, all of a sudden becomes a profitable venture. I feel the same way is here. We have changed the direction out there. We have a foundation that's very excited about working for the future of the fair. We have a new board members on the Fair Board. We have a new manager in charge out there who is changing the direction of the fair. It's acknowledged there's lots of things that need to be done out there, and some of those things are in the process of being done. I think you will see in the future a new dynamic attitude about the fair and the people who go there. I can't stress enough that one of the main purposes of a fair, a local fair or State Fair, is for the youth of this state. The kids who belong to FFA and belong to 4H enjoy coming down to the fair to show what they've done during the year. And that is the future of this state; that's the youth. I think we owe it to them to provide them an opportunity to be able to express to the public what they've been doing for the benefit of this state. So if there's no other reason to maintain a State Fair, certainly there is one for the youth. As I indicated earlier, there are lots of activities out there and those are a part of the total, but, to me, the main function of a fair is for the benefit of the youth who do enjoy coming there and not only meeting friends but seeing other people who are involved in the same kind of a project that they're involved in, see how well they've done against those they're competing against. And so if there's no other reason to advance this bill, it's for the youth of this state, to keep the fair as a viable institution, to make it profitable, to make it profitable again for the citizens of this state. That's the goal that we set out to do, that's the goal that the manager has set out to do, and we're only trying to provide a slight amount of help for that purpose. For that reason, I'd ask you to support this bill and move it on. With that, thank you very much.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. You've heard the closing. The question before us is the advancement of LB 72 to E & R Initial. All in favor please vote aye; opposed vote nay. Please record. A record vote has been requested.