

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

February 4, 2003 LB 126

fine job. They have some very good members on their board. I remember the last young man that the Governor had appointed to the State Electrical Board, I was just fascinated with the way he presented himself. He had worked as an electrician when he was younger, or worked with an electrician, found that to be his liking, and he went on ahead to school and was a fine man. I mean, this...knew a lot of things about electrical work. I don't know anything. I don't even know how to put in a breaker. But that's why you have people that do this work. It's for our own safety. If the funds are going down, they need to be built up. This isn't going to cost you \$1,000 every time you have someone come out. That's not the intent. But it's to build this fund up so that they can operate in an efficient manner. Senator Cudaback, this is a good bill. We heard it in committee. And the committee members, if you'd like to say something, do it now, because this is not gouging the public. It's for our own safety. Thank you, Senator Cudaback, for bringing the bill. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Connealy, you're recognized.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I think Senator Cudaback and Senator Janssen have covered it well. But you know, everyone affected that came to the committee agreed, the people that are paying this, the people that are doing the work. They want to be inspected. They don't want service cut so that construction falls behind or safety is not kept up. This may be instructive to boards and commissions and the like to come in and ask for increases on quicker basis. But it just shows that this board has been quite conservative and manages money well. If you look at the chart that Senator Cudaback's handed out, they're going to be in deficit. They don't have enough money to do the work, to protect the citizens, and to keep construction going that needs to be inspected in the state in the years ahead. This is a bill that has to go through so that we can not only keep ourselves safe, but also make sure that construction works on an ongoing basis. Some commercial construction has slowed down in the state, to some extent. The housing construction is still pretty strong. The demand for this inspection is just about as strong as it's ever been. And