

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

February 4, 2003 LB 126

the costs for getting out and doing this keep continuing to rise. I thank Senator Cudaback for bringing this. This is a good bill, and it shows that this board has been conservative in the way they've handled their money.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. The Chair recognizes Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSON: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. As I understand this bill, if it does not pass, within about a six-month period our State Electrical Board will be closed. It will be out of business. This is as much a public safety issue as it is to build all these prisons we build in this state. We want and we need to have our electrical business checked out. If I also understand it right, with these high fees...and I'm one, too, who looks very cautiously at these kind of fees when they go up, and ask questions. What these type of really high fees, more than doubled, in some cases...in 2007, with these kind of fees, would be the first time that they would again be back to a three-month reserve. Their reserves are gone. They're good days are gone too. And I know it's terrible. And the fact of it is, the consumer...Senator Stuthman, you're right, the consumer at the bottom is going to have to pay it, the person who's buying the new house, the people who are building new businesses. They're going to have to pay it. The contractors who pay it now will raise their prices. But we won't have any...the way I understand it, we won't have any jurisdiction or anybody checking them out to see that the wiring is going in the way it's supposed to be, if this place closes. And it will close, whether it's in statute that we have it or not. If you haven't got any money, you can't operate. Thank you.

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

SENATOR JONES: Madam President, members of the body, I too have some concerns here on these fees and how much they are. I wonder if I could ask Senator Cudaback a question or two.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may.