

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

March 26, 2003      LB 46

revenue from the unfortunate and "misfortunate" circumstances people who have run afoul of the law are confronted by. There have been some safeguards put into the bill to ensure that people who are not able to pay these fees will not be punished. It remains to be seen whether or not the words and the intent of the language will be followed and carried out. We put into the law a provision relative to people participating in certain programs at the pen, and if they intentionally did not comply they could lose good time. Well, the administration ignored that. It has been turned into a club and if people...and by "club" I meant like a stick to hit people with, to take good time under circumstances that I think are totally unjustified. So if changes are not made in that area, I'm making it clear now, I will fight this entire bill. I do not like what the Department of Corrections has been doing in terms of twisting the laws that we put on the books, misapplying them, inappropriately taking people's good time, backing up the number of people who are in prison who, but for the misconduct of the department officials, could be paroled. I don't want this to be feel-good legislation. I don't feel good about it. I don't feel good about what's happening in the Department of Corrections, and I certainly don't feel good about what prosecutors and judges are doing. But it is good that we have a comprehensive, a quasi, a semi-comprehensive piece of legislation that gives us an opportunity to explore the punishment aspect of the so-called crime and punishment syndrome. There is also a dollar being added to court costs to build this database system so that other aspects of the program laid out in this bill can be administered. Senator Brashear has an omnibus court cost, court fee bill. I'm going to be a blunderbuss. For those who don't know, well, I started to tell you, look it up in the dictionary, but nobody wants to be confronted by a blunderbuss. So if his omnibus confronts the blunderbuss, I feel the blunderbuss will win. And what is making me view that bill with a jaundiced eye is the fact that they've got a racist, incompetent judge,...

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.