

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

April 22, 2003

LB 759

problem...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: ...that faces the state. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Quandahl. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think there's any question, I think, as we all share our particular views, our perception of what or what is not good public policy, I think it's very obvious that emotions are running high. And I don't begrudge that. I think that's good. I like to see passion in my colleagues. I certainly respect Senator Quandahl for bringing this amendment. I think he is looking for a solution. And I respect that tremendously. I disagree, however, that this is the time for this amendment. We're in the sixty-sixth day. We are into a period of time that is going to take every bit of patience, every bit of courage and intelligence that we as legislators can muster forth. All of us have had an opportunity, from the first week in January, as the Governor presented his budget cuts, as people that we represent brought us legislation to bring to each other, to our committees, that would increase, would decrease, would change the way that we allocate funds, we've had an opportunity to debate those issues in committee. As they have come to the floor of the Legislature, we've had an opportunity to debate them, to talk about them, to discuss them, to compromise them. Senator Quandahl, on the sixty-sixth day, bringing this amendment, without giving the people that are affected the same kind of opportunity that those had from the first week in January, is not fair. I really, truly believe that. If we're going to keep this playing field level, if there's nothing else that we do, we do absolutely need to maintain the integrity of this institution, and that's have an opportunity for public hearings, have an opportunity to bring to the floor of the Legislature issues that are debated. Every issue, every issue that is in your amendment to be cut, I am certain, took not minutes or hours, but days, weeks, months of deliberation and discussion to make the decision on funding these originally. And now we're going to be asked, as an amendment to the floor amendment, to