

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

April 29, 2003

LB 406

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I intend to be brief, but I did think that I would like to echo what Senator Preister said and also, in response to what Senator Brown said, I think she makes a very good point, but I also think that this is a rather unique situation; that we will lose the lease or we will have to renew the lease in 2005, so if we're going to do this, probably now is the time to do it. And what we don't want to do is do it, you know, in a manner that will not be sufficient and that we will have to come back on our own in later years and do the addition on our own perhaps because the federal dollars won't be there for an addition, if I'm understanding that correctly. Am I, Senator Preister? Am I understanding correctly that if we build that 100-, 110-, 120-bed facility now and later decide that there's just the desperate need that we do have to add on, would we be able to get federal match for the add-on at that time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, Mr. Speaker...Mr. President. Senator, right now we can get the full amount if we appropriate our portion. Later, if we try to do an add-on, it would have a different priority system. There would be no guarantees. We would wait in line. It may or may not be funded. The match share would be different. It would be a whole different set of circumstances. Right now, we have more of a certainty. Then it would be a gamble and we don't know what it would be.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And I appreciate that, Senator Preister. That was my impression of what you had said earlier, and I think that we don't want to be too shortsighted so that we eventually spend, you know, millions more to do...to add on, if it has to be all our own money, and also we might be...we would be dealing with increased costs just because of inflation and rising construction costs as well. So the old saw about pound...penny wise and pound foolish once again could apply in this case. And did you wish to say something else, Senator Preister?

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, Senator, I would just comment that in order to bring the existing facility up to all of the federal