

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

April 29, 2003

LB 407

remember years ago somebody saying, look at how states are organized; they're organized around federal mandates. It's,...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...if you match this, you get that amount of money. It defines our structure. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Have to piggyback a little bit on what Senator Brashear was talking about, first of all, when he brought up the subject of computerization and all the money we spend on computers and updating everything in the state. A lot of that has been spent since I've been here. Just a little scenario, and this is a true one. It happened in the last few weeks. I had my office call DAS and ask them if they could tell us how many state employees we had that have been deployed into the active military because of the war. They said they have no way of knowing that. Have not been able to find that information for us, with all this wonderful new technology we bought them. They said we would have to call each agency individually. We are now working on the Adjutant General's Office to see if they could tell us. The subject was that I was hoping that maybe in the appropriations talk somewhere that those of our citizens who are serving over there who are employees of us who are not getting the same salary, that maybe we could make it up. And talking about money, if we're not making it up, paying them the difference of what they usually get, where is that money going now? I know one department, what they do with vacancy savings. But they couldn't give us that information. Don't you consider that kind of unbelievable with all the modern technology? People's lives. They'll probably find it now. Or maybe if somebody other than a senator would ask for it they would make it, or maybe some other senator; it could be that I stepped on some toes. And then...anyway, Senator Bromm talked a little bit about medical care. Senator Thompson has talked about medical care. I'm not one who supports any kind of a copay. I can tell you this. I do know inmates, and quite a few inmates, who come