

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

nonviolent or is that even relevant given that they're almost at the end of their term or sentence?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: This amendment cannot hold the Parole Board to saying they can only release nonviolent offenders because violent offenders get out, too, and they should. We should have some time for a gradual reentry into society with some supervision. The TRD date means they are going to be out...this is a jam date. That doesn't mean they can parole more than this. These people are going to be out in less than six months unless they screw up and lose more good time because of their behavior in the prison.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. So basically we have a facility that has currently 468 inmates, and also in Nebraska at the same time we have 485 individuals who have a tentative release date of less than six months. They'll be out of jail in six months regardless of whether or not we maintain this facility.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Unless they act up in prison and lose some good time.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Thank you, Senator Pedersen. My inclination is to support this. I've not heard any reason yet in the debate as to why we shouldn't. I strongly feel that if we do not end this session without making some significant structural changes, nothing will change. And in my mind, structural changes are elimination of the facilities, things of that nature, actually reducing the size of government. We talked earlier about, I made an analogy and maybe it was a poor one, that Senator Wehrbein and the Appropriations Committee had done a good job of scraping the trough clean and maybe it's time that we reduce the size of that now. And that's not a pejorative term. I just think that it is time that we look at structural changes and that's what this is. This seems to make sense to me. Four hundred and eighty-five inmates have a tentative release date of less than six months. We have a facility with actually less than that numbers. Other states are actually doing this. While it might...Senator Wehrbein or someone earlier said that this probably or Senator Pedersen actually said that this should be an administration driven thing