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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 407

to thank Senator Pedersen for bringing this forward. First of all, let me state I do support his amendment. I think it's a very bold move. I think it's thinking outside the box. I think it's a definite long-term solution, not just a quick fix but a long-term solution to one of our problems, our main problem, of course, being the expenses, expenditures. Corrections is in the top three of the money that we spend in this state, so what not a perfect way to do this? And I also want to thank Senator Pedersen for coming up with an amendment where I get an opportunity to agree with Senator Bourne. That's a first this year. (Laughter) I do totally support that. And I agree with the concept that...and the ideas that Senator Wehrbein brought, that there are some unanswered questions. But I think this is a perfect opportunity for us to get those questions answered and move forward, strike while the iron is hot, if you will, and get something accomplished instead of just giving this lip service. I think this is a perfect opportunity to move forward with this. And thank you again, Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Mr. Clerk, item on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Don Pederson would move to amend Senator Dwite Pedersen's amendment. (FA1357, Legislative Journal page 1762.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson, to open on your amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature that aren't eating, I would have concern, as I expressed initially, about the operative date. And the operative date that Senator Dwite Pedersen has in his proposal is October 1, 2003. And quite candidly, I think that's pretty early to be going through such a process as this. And my amendment simply changes the date to October 1, 2004. I think we will still have benefits from our fiscal standpoint, but on the other hand, this is a transitional thing that will have to have a lot of adjustments, and I think that to close the facility this quickly, as proposed initially by Senator Dwite Pedersen, would make it very difficult for this to be as operative and as