

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

information about the McCook facility. And the judges were starting to use more...more application of that particular facility, and it appeared that we were not really going to save any money by closing the McCook facility specifically because those people were going to end up having to go into a penitentiary situation, and obviously for a longer period of time than what they would in the four months that they would be in the McCook facility. And if you balanced it, you would not have very much of a net saving. And also, those people at the McCook facility, generally younger people, were having more of an opportunity to have a probationary situation where they would have some follow-up, and that they were showing a good recovery in their process. In the Omaha facility, I would say that those are particularly difficult young people to work with, and there was a concern of the absorption of those young people into an adult-type facility and we thought that perhaps they would be better off maintaining themselves in that smaller facility even though it's very costly.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you, Senator Pederson. If there's any time left, I would give it to Senator Chambers, my time, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, about a minute and a half.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Members of the Legislature, there's a way for us to get input from the Department of Corrections and anybody else. All we need to do is have an interim study. We can conduct hearings that can be done through the Judiciary Committee. I am a member of the committee. I can grill those hamburgers...I meant those people who come before us to discuss the issue. And we can find out why there are administrators in the Department of Corrections who deliberately and blatantly violate the statutes that we have enacted, and we have to come back and enact a second one, which in effect says we passed this once, this time we mean it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We have been toyed with. We have been cast