

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

May 14, 2003

LB 407

money in the short term, which right now is about 2 or 3 million dollars. And frankly, that's a soft figure. I would not be surprised that some of this...if we were to do it immediately, some of this would come back to haunt us as a deficit. But the way it is now, it's October of 2004, I think does give some reaction time. And so hopefully with a study this summer, we will have a better idea of what we're doing, and we can take the correct action next year. I don't...I don't want to put words into Senator Pedersen. I think this is not a crisis he's trying to create. He's sincere about this. If I thought he was trying to create a crisis to get some movement, I would be a little skeptical. But I don't think so. I think he really believes that this would be a way to do it. And I understand that frustration of not being able to slow down the corrections budget, as we've tried other ways in the past, if you recall, including just simply removing several million dollars of administration funds. But I think we're doing this hastily. As I said last night, I am concerned that the ramifications are...not far beyond, but at least beyond what we anticipate right now. And I would urge reconsideration, and I will vote accordingly on that, and let us examine that in a study. Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. My sense is that it's time to stop the rhetoric. It's time to stop the nonsense and the absurd comments. No pun intended. This is an opportunity to make some real change. We just had an amendment... Senator Brashear was trying to...what he determined was a cut, by having the communities return the windfall on the extended property tax base to the state. Now, how is that a cut? That is a shift. This is one of the few things that we have had presented to us yet this session that is an actual cut. Senator Pedersen demonstrated to us that the number of prisoners that were in LCC are those...it's an equal number to those who have a release date of less than six months from now. I don't understand how this cannot be done. I wanted to say at the outset, I oppose the reconsideration amendment...or, motion. One thing I want to start off with, though, is that I don't disagree...I disagree with Senator Chambers and whoever else said