

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

May 19, 2003

LB 598

write letters and so on and so forth. No one giving this body credit for doing what it thinks is best on down the line a few years for the state, whether it affects us individually or not. So I say, let's vote and have at it. And we can all vote the way we want for the reasons that are unique to each of us. But I just want to say that I think those that are so adamant for term limits just have no idea how this body has benefited from the likes of some of the people who have been here. And I'm not speaking for me at all, that's for sure. But you talk about people like Senator Warner, the senator that I replaced, Senator Schmit. And you can go on down the line for many others, for that matter. Senator Chambers. These people, Senator Landis and Senator Beutler and others, they have a unique perspective, because they're extremely experienced. And I don't know how people can be in here that long and still be as...contributing as they are. But that speaks for itself. And if their districts are not happy with their representation, they have plenty of opportunities to elect someone else. They usually have opponents. But that isn't what happens. The people in their district feel that they're being well represented, and they should have the opportunity to make that choice. So I think this vote is important from the standpoint of telling others whether or not we're demonstrating the will. If the interest is there on the public after some good polling this summer and fall, if the interest is seeing this thing on a ballot, this bill will be in a position to be passed next year. If that research indicates that the public is happy, or that they wish to not deal with this for a while yet, and not see this return to the ballot, that information will be communicated to each of us. And then it would be my guess that the bill would not go on to Final Reading and be passed. So as a measure of demonstrating that we are willing to do our part to place this before the public for reconsideration of an issue that we didn't put on the ballot to begin with, I think the bill ought to go forward. And I think it ought to go forward with a strong vote. Because then I think people will be willing to put in the money. And it takes 25, 50, 75 thousand to do good polling to get information. And if people aren't sure that we're going to stand behind this and pass it, if the poll comes back the people want to see this on the ballot, then if it were me, I wouldn't want to put 25 or 50 or 75 thousand into finding that out. I