

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

May 27, 2003

LB 759

he's going on this. And there are parts of it that I am breathing very deeply, but I'd rather know that there is someplace to go than just drifting aimlessly. This gives us someplace to go, and I anticipate and am saying to him once again that I hope that he will also commit the Jensen memo to memory and come back with even more ideas than we've had this year. And I think what we've done this year with the community corrections is a very important first step, and I followed him there too. So I will be following Senator Brashear. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, nobody really likes to talk about taxes, but it's something that you have to talk about. When we started out this year, we knew we had what appeared to be an almost insurmountable task of over \$700 million to deal with, and we dealt with a good portion of that through the appropriations process by making substantial cuts, cuts that we didn't really want to make, but things that we had to do in order to balance our affairs. This is the other half of the equation. The other half of the equation is to come up with sufficient revenue to meet these obligations of the state. I heard Senator Redfield talk about how utilities had gone up for people, how their insurance has gone up. Actually, that same thing is true of every one of the agencies of the state. And so these are things that help create our problem and create the budget needs of the state, but we have to find a method to meet those obligations and I think that LB 759 is a balance of those needs. I think we have had to broaden the base upon which we levy our taxes. It's not pleasant. It's not pleasant to talk about the remodeling costs and things of that nature. There isn't anything that we do in this regard that isn't going to affect some people, in fact many people, but I think we have to bear in mind that there are only three things that we need to do as a Legislature. One is we have to meet; two, we have to pass a budget; and three, we have to adjourn. And we're on the eighty-sixth day. This is our time to pass the budget. I would urge that LB 759 is a vehicle to meet that revenue package and I would urge your support in overriding the veto. Thank you.