

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

May 28, 2003

LB 743

SENATOR CUDABACK: Your light is next, Senator Bourne. Senator Bourne, your light is next.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I don't know, I guess, where the body is...what they're thinking on this. I suppose we'll see once the bracket motion comes up. It seems to make sense to me that we just pass this over for the year, see what goes on with the federal law, and go from there. I've got a lot of information here that I could read to anybody, or tell anybody that wants. But again, I don't believe that this is necessary. We've spent a lot of time trying to eliminate programs in here this session, and we've not been very successful, quite honestly. We closed a prison. And...but yet we extended the date for that. And so I'm sure that we'll revisit that. And if you think about all the cuts that we made this year, the majority of them were across-the-board cuts. We didn't eliminate programs. We didn't stop things. And you all know how hard it is, that once a program is in line...is on-line, how difficult it is to stop it. I mean, how many of you had lobbyists come in when we were going to eliminate those three commissions? And they went crazy, and tried to stop us from eliminating those, tried to stop us from downsizing government. And they were largely successful. I think we eliminated one, and the other two are still here. We had the smoking cessation program. And I know Senator Aguilar supported that. And yet what we did was, we eliminated that program a few weeks ago. Senator Raikes had that amendment. We saved \$3 million a year. And then tonight we put the funding back in at a minimum, so at least they can maintain their people. We have not been successful at reducing the size of government, and nobody can say that we have been. And so I think for us to implement a program that is duplicative, it's big government, it's unwarranted, I just don't see why we need to do that. You and I both know that we're not going to be able to eliminate this. Next year I know that Senator Smith has graciously agreed to put a delayed effective date on this, and he's going to allow the charities to be exempted. And I appreciate those concessions. But again, what happens if this bill is not necessary? He wants to delay the effective date, I believe it's till August 1 of next year. But we'd still have to come back in. Say the federal government's plan works perfectly. Say