

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 12, 2004 LB 172

Mr. President, the priority motion I have is by Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers would move to recommit LB 172 to the Education Committee.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to recommit LB 172 back to committee. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the first thing I want to do is read a quote from an article that Senator Mines placed on my desk this morning, and it happens to be quoting me on this very subject, and it was in Sunday's World-Herald: I think it is of value, meaning this requirement. I think it should be available at school. Knowledge is power, and information is critical to wise action. What Senator Bourne did this morning was to show the fallaciousness of arguments made by Senator Redfield and Senator Foley about going to the phone book. Here we have responsible legislators viewing a proposal which is to be enacted into law, not having a copy of the very document that is the subject of the discussion. That crucial, critical piece of information was not had by any senator during that hearing. They could have gone to the Department of Education but they didn't. They could have asked the Research Division of the Legislature to procure a copy but they didn't. So with all of their knowledge, with all of their legislative experience with the responsibility that we have to be informed when we give a vote, they did not go to the sources of information that would give them what they needed to vote knowledgeably and intelligently on the issue, so it proves they were voting on something other than what the issue was. This bill should go back to that committee now that the information has been placed in their hands and let them look at the actual subject matter. I dare say, but I dare not ask, that Senator Foley when he used a lawyer to investigate a certain question when he was running for office did not go to the phone book to find that lawyer, but there are more lawyers' names in the phone book than you can shake a stick at. If Senator Redfield needed a doctor, whether a pediatrician or an obstetrician, I doubt that she went to the phone book and ran down the list and said, I will take this one, because as I read