

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

January 28, 2004 LB 656

60 microns in width, I have not gone through the first micron of my discussion on this bill, and I'd say it might take about 10,000 microns to get to the midway point of my discussion. I hope my colleagues...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...will take seriously this discussion. I am serious about my amendment. I do not believe that a private operation is going to find people who are trained, who will meet all of the requirements that a guard, some people call them corrections officers, ought to meet and be held to. It is unwise, imprudent, and I'm going to do all I can to stop it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening by Senator Chambers to indefinitely postpone LB 656. By Rule 7, Senator Aguilar, you're permitted to respond for five minutes before we begin discussion on the motion. Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to...I want to respond directly to one of the things Senator Chambers said in his criticism of Hall County and their prosecution there. I think we have a very fair prosecutor in Hall County and we also have what's referred to as drug courts in Hall County, which works to keep people out of jail. You know, that's not our goal. I mean if there's some way we can use rehabilitation efforts, that's what we want to do in Hall County, and I think we've done a good job with that. I'm very pleased with it. Now I'd also like to talk a little bit about a trip Senator Kremer and I had the opportunity to take to Texas to visit one of these such facilities. And although I realize that, you know, there are horror stories of private-run prisons in the past, I don't think it's that way now, you know, at least not all of them. There are good companies out there that do a good job, and I'll have to say that the morale of the prisoners in the prison we visited in Texas, actually there were two of them, and the morale was extremely high. We were free to visit with the prisoners, ask questions and, you know, some of the questions were, do you get enough to eat, how's the food, and,