

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

February 10, 2004 LB 139A

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...overturn the bill. If I can persuade people to join me in opposing it, that's one thing. But I'm not going to be offering a lot of amendments just to delay the bill. I'm not going to dig my heels in on the bill, and I'm not going to vote for the bill. But this will not be one of those that, as I have done on occasion, I'll, so to speak, pull out all the stops. You got one this time. You're lucky that there are term limits, because you may not need another one before both of us are out of here. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers, I would hope you would be in favor of this bill and this kind of measure, because it does, as I think you recognize, further the ends of justice, both in terms of the conviction of the guilty, and in terms of the exoneration of the innocent. And in that process of exoneration of the innocent, I hope, in many cases, healing those kinds of racial conflicts that may derive from misguided efforts to prosecute, or from misunderstandings about the criminal justice system. And maybe by focusing on the uniqueness of DNA to every individual, and by starting to focus on different colors, like the color red, which is the color of everyone's blood, instead of focusing on the color of skin, and start talking less about the differences in skin color, and more in the differences in the sameness of the color of blood, and talking about that old phrase that we know so well, the red-blooded American, that's the kind of American we should be thinking of, because it includes all of us. In any event, I want to get back closer to the bill under discussion. And as Senator Johnson has indicated to you, the bill, by and large, avoids General Funds. About half of the ongoing costs of the bill would continue to come out of the cash fund that we discovered could be used for that purpose. And part of what would otherwise have been a General Fund expense in this upcoming year is also picked up by that cash fund, so that on an