

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

March 2, 2004

LB 998

will be guaranteed of seeing everybody who's here now, even those who lose, if they lose. Because their term will run until January of 2005, so they'll be at the special session, unless they're sore losers. I don't have an opponent. I told you all a few days ago that, while there was plenty of time for somebody to run against me...Senator Byars, quit looking at your watch. Look at the clock up there, and they're both the same, and I'm going to take as much time whether you time me by your clock or the one on the wall, or whether you use the calendar. I just thought I'd tell you that. I haven't done the thing yet. I'm digressing a little bit. I haven't done the thing yet, Senator Byars, that shows that I'm really serious about taking a lot of time. When I bring my hourglass, handcrafted, it has jewels in it, it has figures carved into it, the metal, bring that hourglass down here, when I bring that hourglass down here and put it on my desk, you'll know that I'm serious. And then when I set a calendar on top of that hourglass, Senator Friend hasn't been here long enough to know it, that means I'm going to time myself by the calendar, not the hourglass, not the clock. This amendment is not designed, even if it were adopted, to harm Senator Don Pederson's bill. He will get a bill...a vote on this bill after I finish my times of speaking on this amendment, and I hope that he gets enough votes to advance his bill, and I expect that he will. In fact, I'll tell you all something I believe. Unless it's a bill that would give rights to people in disregard of their sexual orientation, any other bill would probably pass, get enough votes to move, because people are not going to read it. People are not going to have their attention called to it, and bills will just move. When I begin to offer amendments to the next bill, I think it's going to be clear that, other than myself, nobody on this floor...I'm making a challenge, nobody on this floor has read every bill...every word in the next bill, with the exception of myself. There are about a hundred and sixty-one or sixty-two pages. One forty-seven somebody said. And the last page and the one in front of it have a whole lot of sections that are going to be repealed. When I was reading the Bible through all of those times...let me divide that. When I was reading the Bible through and through, comma, all of those times that I did so, when I got to "Numbers," every word I read. From "In the beginning" to "amen," every word, every verse number, every chapter number, I