

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

March 2, 2004

LB 962

They also will give us the opportunity to discuss these divisions of the bill. In order that you will know where I am on this one, if you turn to your gadget you will see it. But on page 1, in line 6, I would strike the word "recognizes" and insert the word "finds." Instead of saying the Legislature recognizes, the structure that we use in the statute is that the Legislature finds such and such a thing. And this type of material is called legislative findings. And if, out of curiosity, you'd just like to see some other places in this bill itself where what I'm proposing already exists, you could look at page 29, line 21, page 62, lines 16 and 25, and page 64, line 4. No, the 64, line 4 is something different. But anyway, all of us who've offered legislation that contained intent of the Legislature or findings, we use the word that I'm suggesting here, that the Legislature finds, not that the Legislature recognizes. If you look at what is stricken from this bill in line 5, you'll see the word "recognized." So whoever drafted this amendment was probably trying to make as small a change in the existing law as possible. But simply because something is in the existing law is not a reason for us to leave it there if it comes to our attention that it ought not to be there in the form that it takes. So I'm going to move in a leisurely, unhurried fashion. And if the body agrees with the offerings that I make, the body will vote to adopt my amendments. If the body disagrees, the body will not vote that way. I am somewhat of a stickler when it comes to language, grammar, syntax. And what I am doing with some of my amendments is to alter existing law. But let me give you an example, so you will be aware of some of the things I'm going to be dealing with, and you will not have to feel that there is something sinister or a hidden agenda in the amendments themselves. My overall agenda is not hidden either. This bill is going to be very valuable in burning time off the clock. But it's of a nature where no so-called filibuster has to be involved. There are substantive issues on which people do not all agree. With all due respect to what happened this morning, Senator Bourne, I will have to say, is much brighter than I am, because the answer that Senator Schrock gave to him about why this bill is important did not really convey to me why it is important to the entire state. Sometimes when we have individually a very serious problem, it can affect our outlook on the whole world. But the world does