

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

March 8, 2004

LR 209

SENATOR LANDIS: This is a response, I think, to an argument that Senator Chambers has been making, and he's made relatively well, which is that the committee amendment language, on its own, gets the money to the Environmental Trust Fund, but only that far, and it would allow for some games playing legislatively: put the money in, take it out; put the money in, but designate it for a different purpose. Might be some...there might be some legerdemain that could be done there. I understand your language to have this goal--money will be spent for the environment. It will be spent for the environment.

SENATOR PREISTER: Correct.

SENATOR LANDIS: That's an area in which we have a great deal of agreement. There's a second aspect, it seems to me, of this language, and that is to make sure that the tool or the implement for doing that is the Environmental Trust Fund. I'm not adverse to that idea either. I will say this. I need to have considered time off the floor so that I'm not reacting to language on a short-term basis that other people spent apparently the weekend working on and that I've seen since 20 minutes ago. My best guess is this. Let me say two things. First, the money needs to go to the environment, and if it's not clear now it needs to be clear, and I want language to do that. And secondly, that the Environmental Trust Fund is an appropriate mechanism for the distribution of that money to the environment, and I think that makes sense as well. I've got two more amendments that apparently already Senator Chambers have put up there. One of them is to spend this money for HHS and AIDS, and the second one is to abolish the lottery. I've got a long row to hoe here from my critics. I'd as soon that we file this and take it up on Select File, when there's considered opinion, because it's language I want to actually see pass. I'd as soon spend our floor time dealing with those amendments and getting a read from this body of whether they want to do this goal or...at all. But to you let me give an assurance. The two things we've identified--this money needs to be spent for the environment is an area of agreement between us; that the Environmental Trust Fund is an appropriate mechanism for doing that is an area of agreement between us--I'd be happy to work on