

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

March 10, 2004 LB 599

is the reason for that increase. We do have other boards within our statutes that we do give authority to. Certainly we try to do that within some guidelines, but certainly in Health and Human Services we do have boards that we do give authority. Always there's a process that they go through. There's usually a public hearing along the way, and so there is protection. So I think the reason the word "increase" in there is to really allow for that cost, as they keep arising, that that threshold might be changed. But as Senator Tyson mentioned, I certainly would be willing also to spend any time necessary between now and Select File to come up with something that is satisfactory to all parties. Senator Beutler, did you want any more time on this? Madam President, I would relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Beutler, you have about 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Jensen, a quick question. That first section of the bill which just gives the board authority to go above \$80,000, why is doing it this way, handing it over to a board who has no incentive to go over \$80,000, why is that better than simply putting a consumer index marker in there and making the board increase it in proportion to increase in prices? I'm interested particularly in your reply...

SENATOR JENSEN: Sure.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...because you are in the construction business and you did indicate those prices...

SENATOR JENSEN: You're right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...continue to increase.

SENATOR JENSEN: And that would be a very reasonable approach. I wished I would have thought of that at the moment. But, yeah, I think something like that would be very advantageous. Now, it's not my bill, but it would seem to me that that would certainly be something that...that way, it is adjusted. They're not coming back to the Legislature or anything. That makes