

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

March 19, 2004 LB 1091

should continue. Now what we've always done, we've taken the interest dollars and we've taken a small amount of the principal that comes in each year to fund the \$50 million. You know, I don't have any idea what happens in the future, and what's going to happen with the investment account, and recognize that we...after 9-11, when everything crashed, we had a few months that, yes, even the Investment Council lost money on our investments. That has returned to a positive, and matter of fact, very positive. And so these numbers all depend on what our Investment Office is able to...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...obtain. I have my light on.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Raikes and Senator Jensen. Senator Jensen, you may proceed.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. And Senator Raikes, I would be glad to continue with that...with our dialog. I hope, and I also foresee, that in the future, rather than the \$50 million a year expenditure, that we might even increase that. But the allocation that we have set up in LB 692, and this body has found to maintain the proportion that is going for research, for biomedical research, also for mental health, substance abuse, the minority health, and respite, certainly has worked, and we really have had not any objection to that. And I think we're going to be able to continue that. If I thought in any way that this \$2.5 million a year carve-out would injure the fund, I wouldn't even be offering it. But I do feel that we have an opportunity, and somewhat of an obligation, to fund this program. We've reduced the amount of teenagers smoking, and so it's a program that's working. I would be glad to answer any other question you have.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Raikes, please.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Jensen. My question is, why don't you make smoking cessation a part of the, what I'll call