

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

March 30, 2004 LB 888

with AM3372. (Legislative Journal page 1248.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Synowiecki, to open on AM3372 to LB 888.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Senator Cudaback, members, thank you. During the General File debate, we had a short conversation with regard to LB 888. And essentially what it does, it lifts a blanket exemption for renovation of buildings, an exemption from the updated energy codes, that are located within an area that has been designated blighted by a municipality. And I had some concerns with regard to lifting a blanket exemption such as this, indicating on General File debate that this sort of blanket exemption may serve as a "discentive," a "discentive" to undertake restoration projects in blighted areas. Oftentimes when we speak of blighted areas, particularly in the district that I represent, we're speaking of very, very aged and old buildings and so forth. And to apply 2003 energy standards to these areas and to these types of buildings may prove to be cost-prohibitive for undertaking such projects. And additionally, maintaining a blanket exemption for a blighted area may serve...on the contrary, may serve as an incentive to undertake restorative projects within a blighted area. I fully understand that LB 888 does give local localities, local jurisdictions the ability to waive specific requirements of the code. But I...my concern was--and Senator Friend and I have discussed this quite a bit between General File and Select File--my concern is lifting the blanket exemption for blighted areas, and the fact that it may prove as a "discentive" for reconstruction or renovative projects in these areas, and may remove the incentive to undertake restorative projects within these areas. And I would like just to have a dialogue. If I am convinced that this bill is...or that my amendment is not needed, that the localities can provide for blanket exemptions within municipalities for particular blighted areas, then I will withdraw the amendment. But I think we do need to at least have a discussion with regard to the removal of the blanket exemptions from these standards. With that, thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. We had the