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SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. First of all, I want to tell you that I have not thrown any amendments on this because I made a deal with the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Brashear, that I would not be putting any amendments on the bills because I want to see the Community Corrections Council, give them another year to get their work done. However, I do like the idea of what Senator Synowiecki is doing here. This gives me an opportunity to talk just a little bit about, you know, some areas that we don't seem to be able to get anything done on. The closing the Lincoln Regional Center, we backed off on that. The Community Corrections Council I hope is going to be able to kind of...bring us next year some real, real savings, and them savings are going to be spent on what Senator Synowiecki is trying to talk about, right here. The closing of the Work Ethic Camp would bring a lot of dollars in. That takes a new a new institution out there that could be easily turned into a work release center. And let me just give you a few figures on how that works. If we made it a work release center, without closing the facility, we'd be talking about \$15,000 a year per bed compared to what we are now paying, \$45,000 a year per bed. And when he said it was \$15,000 per inmate, that's because they only stay for four months and they move on. But it's actually, per the bed, is \$45,000 a year. You could easily turn that into a work release center, is what I originally tried to build more work release centers when we built Tecumseh. We need to be doing some things, and just to give you some examples of what other states are doing: Alabama enacted legislation that had...that's affecting 500 to 1,400 prisoners; Florida is saving \$1.8 million in salary savings; Illinois' 141-year-old prison was closed that served 41 million. There's 28 different states here who have hit their Department of Corrections and changed the laws, not only in the Department of Corrections but into their laws and changing their mandatory minimums and changing their four strikes and you're out, and doing different things to save money. And the Community Corrections Council I know is going to be working on that. I hope that they're also going to be working on what we're doing in the Department of Corrections. We've got three of our adult institutions, four counting the Diagnostic and Evaluation Center, that are staffed for maximum