

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

March 30, 2004 LB 1089

at their disposal. They have electronic monitoring, they do work visits, they track these guys down in our community. I think a lot of the programs that are offered at the Work Ethic Camp can be done cheaper in the community. It kind of parallels the mental health reform philosophical backdrop argument, in many ways.

SENATOR BOURNE: Have we...do we have data from the Work Ethic Camp yet on recidivism or how successful the program is?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: From what I understand, one of the universities is currently conducting a study. I don't know right offhand.

SENATOR BOURNE: So do you have numbers in terms of what this will save on an annual basis ongoing, and factoring in the fact that the care or the supervision they'd receive is about, what, \$1,100 a month cheaper?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Well, anecdotally I have evidence, I guess, if you would consider my discussions with those that I used to work with in the probation department, in terms of my questioning. I would ask them and, during our conversations I would ask them what they...if they place a high value on the Work Ethic Camp. And while I agree with Senator Baker and Senator Pedersen,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: ...they did...they do have wonderful programs, I just don't think the offenders stay there long enough for it to set in, for them to have long-term life-changing attitudes as a result of their stay at the Work Ethic Camp.

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, given, Senator Synowiecki, the amount of money that you're talking about for intensive supervision, it certainly seems to make sense that an individual could be on intensive supervision for a longer period of time.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Yes.