

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

March 30, 2004 LB 1089

\$3,921. I don't know where in the world this \$14,000 figure is coming from. There...it could be that they're using the 100 beds that are out there and dividing that into their budget. It still doesn't add up because they turn these beds over at least three times a year. In some cases, I think the sentences are just for 90 days to the offender, so there's a little variable there. Three thousand nine hundred twenty-one dollars per offender for four months. Generalized cost difference would be as follows for incarceration. Prison is figured at \$47,396. Now...and we're quibbling, we're nitpicking here with Senator Synowiecki. These people, as a term of ISP, intensive supervised probation, have to agree to go to the Work Ethic Camp. If they don't agree to go to the Work Ethic Camp, they don't go ISP. They go to prison. That's not an option. Granted, they're offenders. They're out at Work Ethic Camp under ISP. That's a term of...that's a condition of their terms of ISP that they spend the time that they're sentenced to Work Ethic Camp. They don't agree to go to the Work Ethic Camp, they go behind the walls. The average sentence, these people that are out at the Work Ethic Camp, if they did not go to the Work Ethic Camp, is two years. So we're trading sentencing to the Work Ethic Camp for a maximum of four years at \$3,921 per offender for a person who would, the average if they don't go to the Work Ethic Camp, is a two-year sentence, \$47,396, for a cost savings of \$43,000...\$43,475 per offender. These...I don't know where Senator Synowiecki is getting his information. This is from the Department of Corrections and I have no reason to believe that it's not correct. I've seen the program out there. Some people are saying, oh, we can do this, Senator Synowiecki, on ISP. To that I say baloney. These people get up at 5:30 in the morning, do calisthenics for 30 minutes. They are allowed to shower, they have breakfast, and then they have their substance abuse or programming. There's different levels of offenders in the camp. Their first 30 days there, they're a level one. They obviously are very restricted. Level two, level three, level four, so on, they go out on the work crews and work during the day after they completed their substance abuse classes or they're worked into their work schedule, substance abuse classes, GED classes, and so on. This is not like a person is on ISP and out on the street, a whole different situation. And he's quibbling over whether these people are