

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 6, 2004 LB 1231A

CLERK: LB 1231A, Mr. President. Senator Mossey, I have no amendments to the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Mossey, for a motion.

SENATOR MOSSEY: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 1231A to E & R for engrossing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion to advance LB 1231A to E & R for engrossing. All in favor of the motion...I'm sorry, we did not take a vote on it yet. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I wanted to let the main bill go so that it's clear that I'm not in objection...I'm not objecting to the main bill or the A bill. But I have to make a comment about a decision that was made by the director of the Veterans Department, based on an Opinion he got from the Attorney General. If a person leaves the military with a general discharge, which is not a bad conduct or misconduct discharge, that is not considered the equivalent of a...what do they call a...honorable discharge. (Laugh) And I have one of those. But anyway, it's...right, we said honorable. Thank you. It means that there are certain benefits that veterans with general discharges have been receiving which they no longer can receive. A general discharge doesn't mean that you've done terrible things. Otherwise, you could get a bad conduct and get kicked out. As has been put into the public's domain through comments from veterans, a person could have mental difficulties, could have psychological problems that could be developed as a direct result of the kinds of things that he or she did while serving in the military, especially under circumstances you might find in Vietnam, or today in the Middle East. So for this state to allow something like that to happen and stay in place is unconscionable, in my opinion. If there were enough time, I would seek something I said I never would do, and that's an opportunity to bring what in effect is a new bill, and offer it as an amendment. But I won't do it, as serious and as pressing and compelling as I think the circumstances are. I hope between now and when we come back next session, you all will think about this. Because we're not talking about people who had done