

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

April 7, 2004

LB 692

body, I voted to suspend the germaneness rule. I want to be supportive of what Senator Bromm is doing. I said the other day that he was doing his duty. Someone needs to do this. And in order to be supportive, if push came to shove, I'm going to vote for it but I...but I want to talk about it a little in relationship to where we are as it relates to once specific judgment, and then I want to get off that. Senator Chambers earlier commented about is it constitutional to change it. The issue I've been trying to focus on is we have a specific statute now that provides for a specific instance in which, if you aren't able to pay a judgment, then a particular rate shall apply, and I'm simply saying as it relate...I said earlier on the record, as it relates to low-level nuclear waste and the judgment, if you...if you are already there and know you're there and aren't funding it, then it seems to me we have some legal, genuine legal issues when, knowing that we do not have the money to pay and knowing that we have not funded it and knowing that we will not be able to pay it, then we adjust the rate. That's the point I'm trying to make. But Senator Bromm is clarifying an ambiguity in this statute when he changes it from the date of entry to the date of certification. That's a very worthwhile change. It makes the entirety of this statutory scheme work, so I'm supportive of that. I don't know whether it will have the effect that I think is motivating this, not on Senator Bromm's part, but on the set...part of the body as a whole. I don't know whether it will have that effect, and I've tried to articulate why that's of concern. But I support what Senator Bromm is doing in that regard. But now I want to step back. I want to talk about justice. I want to forget that there's a potential lawsuit, there's a lawsuit or any potential judgment. Do we really want to make it possible for the state to not pay its obligations, as adjudicated finally by our courts, and say to our citizens we don't have the money to pay you, we're not going to be in any...under any pressure to get ready to pay you, and you're not going to collect any consideration for our failure to be able to pay our just debts, judicially determined, and we're not going to penalize ourselves? Is that really...I'm raising...I hope you regard this as being in the spirit of what I told you, Senator Bromm, that I don't want to be obstructionist on this, but I'm...I'm trying to raise the issue when you cannot pay a debt that you