

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

April 8, 2004 LB 32, 983

having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 983 pass? All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1563-1564.) 40 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, 6 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 983 passes. We now move on to General File, 2004 committee priority bills. Time limit of 30 minutes, as noted on the agenda. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 32, introduced by Senator Schrock. (Read title.) The bill was discussed on May 19 of last year, January 26 and February 3 of this year. Committee amendments were offered. There was a division. I have three components. The first committee portion, Mr. President, is FA1445. (Legislative Journal page 505.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, you want to give us a brief summary of what took place, first?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm not going to take a lot of your time this morning. I thank the Speaker for allocating 30 minutes. I don't know if it will take that much time. That's up to you. I have no illusions about this bill passing this morning, but I'm telling you what I'm going to offer you, and you can take it or leave it. It won't be hard to kill this. The Natural Resources Committee has been working on LB 32 for three years. It's been on the floor twice, and has been very controversial. What I'm offering you this morning is an amendment that says the cities and natural resource districts can have budget authority to address the issue. It does not increase their levy. It just says they will have budget authority. What I also want to tell you is that 41 states have addressed this issue. And in states where there have been lawsuits, the financial obligations have been large, and they've been real. And I think we are in...I think we're walking on thin ice here if we don't do anything. The chances of us being in court next year are real, and I think the proposition could be expensive if we are. And so I am offering