

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

January 5, 2005

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion. All in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion was approved. Mr. Speaker, Senator Brashear, it's my privilege to recognize you.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the body, I asked for this time and I wanted to come back here. If you would...I'm not trying to tell you what to do, but if you'd like to sit down a minute, I'd like to talk to you a minute, if I could, please. (Laugh) I guess you can stand up, but I'm going to take a little time, if I can, to explain some things. We do in fact have our session calendar prepared and ready to distribute to you. I have it here, and when I'm done, the pages, if they would come get it and distribute it, I would appreciate it. And it's available and it will also be distributed to your offices. I'd like to give you a little explanation. And this will be how I'm going to do it. If I do too much of it, you'll tell me. But I'd like to explain things as we go along, and see if we can work together to make things as good for us as possible. The philosophy that I used...you know, the public doesn't understand why we're here these days. We come to the floor, we aren't doing anything in particular. They're not taking into account that you have constituent calls and mail to handle, that you're training staff, that we're organizing offices, that we're moving, that we are preparing to serve on committees, that the committees are organizing. There's a lot going on. We all know we're busy. But the fact of the matter is, we're not busy here on the floor. And so, in large part, what you'll see in this calendar is, we're using legislative days, and we have several five-day weeks in January, but five-day weeks in January are days we need to have. But we can...we're using them. They're largely about committee work. So then, as we get into the portion of the session where we are, as one person said to me, tired and cranky and worn out and not getting along so well, we'll go...we'll have more four-day weeks. So that was the philosophy--more five-day weeks in the beginning when we could handle them; more four-day weeks at the end when we needed them for the quality of our work. That's the philosophy of the calendar. I am reliably informed that tomorrow morning there will be a lot of bills to introduce and so, in reliance on that information, we'll start at 10:00. But here's a twist I want to put in, that I think makes some sense,