

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

February 17, 2005 LB 96

what we did on General File and say that I've filed an amendment that I think, when we get to it, will take care of some of these issues. There is a reason why we have three rounds of debate, and the second round here is a second chance to consider it, and Senator Chambers is right. I did amend it so that it wasn't an automatic 100 percent for two reasons. One, the purpose of this fund is to subsidize--this is the National Guard--is to subsidize any federal...beyond anything that might be available federally. Sometimes it's there; sometimes it's not. Currently, there is some there and, in my view, we shouldn't...this should be the secondary fund to what the federal government may provide for these troops. So in drafting that amendment, I wanted to make sure that if there were funds available at the federal level, we would utilize those first, as is currently the intention of the statute, and then we could fill in behind that. So the amendment that's coming will say, leave the original language, this was a benefit that was 75 percent of tuition, and it will say 75 percent up to 100 percent. So that doesn't allay all the concerns that Senator Chambers has about how the program might be administered, but at least it would start at a 75 percent threshold. And then I...because that is already the law to use other funds first, this would give the department the flexibility to go up to 100 percent if those other funds aren't available. I know we're on the reconsideration motion, but I wanted to offer that to the body; that it will be coming in a future amendment and hopefully will improve this language from what I proposed and was adopted on General File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to speak on your reconsideration motion. This is your third time, as you know.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand. Thank you, Mr. President. In view of what Senator Thompson is trying to do, trying to rescue this Legislature, which the Legislature does not deserve, since I'm going to lose her company anyway at some point, I wish she would make her resignation retroactive to about 9:00 a.m. this morning. Then she could not rescue this silly Legislature from its own silliness. Oh, I love to be in this position. But unlike some of my more adolescent colleagues, Senator Thompson