

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 53

issue. This is a huge, public policy shift, huge. We have a process in place, as Senator Smith eloquently spoke of, that works. Over 50 percent of the people that actually approached this process to receive their voting rights back were reinstated, which led me to the conclusion or to ask the question and try to find a conclusion, what happened to the people that wanted those voting rights back but didn't get them? I wonder why. You think we might want to investigate that? One more thing, one more thing. This is political. We brought it up. Not only that, it's probably partisan. But let me tell you this. I never saw anything from the Republican party yet. I haven't seen anything from Democratic party. But let me tell you this. This disenfranchising voters, in my opinion; 33,000 voters in each of our districts, potential voters; 20,000 of them are registered. I'll bet less and 10,000 of them voted for each and every one of you, even if you were uncontested or hotly contested. I would submit that throughout this country, and particularly in this state, the only people that are truly, truly disenfranchised are the ones that choose to disenfranchise themselves. Twenty thousand registered voters in my district, less than 10,000 of them voted last time. Let's go disenfranchise ourselves. Let's sit at home and watch Mike Friend go down there, take the microphone, and make...and mess up District 10. Well, next time maybe they'll have a chance when they hear these type of comments to kick me right out because they don't like it. But guess what? I'm here to tell you we're disenfranchising ourselves. This doesn't help anything. There's a pardons process there. Evidently it works pretty well. Fifty percent of the people were actually reinstated and, hmm, another 48, 49, or 50 percent weren't. I wonder why. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Dwite Pedersen. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on the motion to override? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. We're voting on the motion to cease debate. Have you all voted on the question who care to? We're voting on the motion to cease debate. Have you all voted? Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.