

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

March 11, 2005 LB 264

will be directed, as many of our other boards are to the extent possible, to represent three congressional districts equally. That was part of the compromise. When originally introduced, the bill would have contained...would have included the director of the Department of Health and Human Services. That is no longer part of this bill because of concerns raised at the hearing. And I would appreciate your adoption of this amendment, which supports the strengthening of our child welfare system. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Heard the opening on AM0756. Open for discussion. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I would stand in support of AM0756 and just tell you that the Government Committee did have the hearing. We did advance the bill on a 6 to 1 to 1 vote. We had 1 person absent. And Senator Thompson worked very hard to find a middle ground here, but I think this will bring a little added outside expertise to the board, and I think it just will be kind of like a breath of fresh air. And the committee had a lot of differing viewpoints on this bill, but they all pretty much came together at the end with this compromise. So I would urge the adoption of AM0756.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Further discussion? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if this is going to be done or seriously considered by the Legislature, it shouldn't be done in five or fewer minutes. This is something that I have to be convinced is of value. I have a lot of respect for Senator Thompson, I have a lot of respect for Senator Schimek, but that is not going to be enough to have me accept an amendment such as this without being satisfied in my mind that the membership is what it ought to be or anything else about it, even giving a rationale for changing the number of people and then determining which types of entities or interests will be represented. There should be a rationale given as to why each of these people should be on here. I take the whole realm of foster care very seriously. I