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

March 15, 2005 LB 206

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...exactly what that is. And, of course, you know there's a long way to go until the bill hits Final Reading, and if there's some language that we can put an additional obligation on that committee to do it in a timely manner, we certainly can do that.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And I appreciate that. I'm almost thinking that it might be well to have somebody, someone, targeted...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Burling.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, talk about being defender of the downtrodden, the people we're talking about today really fit into that category. People who are considered, quote, different, unquote, for any reason are treated as though somehow being different makes them less than human, and they're treated in that fashion. Sometimes they are dealt with as though they're the disposable people. In the old days, individuals who were afflicted in certain mental and physical ways were hidden in closets, attics, basements, even by families who were embarrassed and ashamed, twofold; ashamed and embarrassed that they would treat a family member in the way they did, but also ashamed and embarrassed of that member. They knew how society would view that family member, so they collapsed, folded, and did not aid the one who needed their aid the most at the time that aid was needed. When we operate as a Legislature and put words into the statute books, those words, as I say on occasion, are written in stone. The thrust of this bill is probably justifiable, and I know that the public fears the category of people that we're dealing with, and that fear would exist whether one of these persons had ever done anything to harm another individual. I am of the opinion that protection is needed for these people when they are taken into custody or being subjected to whatever constitutes treatment.