

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

April 1, 2005

LR 2

come up here where the word "primarily" you might want to think about, but you're not going to be able to think about if that's in the constitution and if the barrier is there that says the Legislature can really not do much here. I would argue for a broader parameter. It's interesting that the argument is made that the Legislature shouldn't be able to regulate, whereby under this amendment the city or the county or the person who issues these bonds, they can pick and choose. Ah, and therein lies another difficulty. Right? When the city and the counties start to pick and choose among these nonprofits, well, I hate to think of the abortion question and some of the things that can come up, because most of those organizations on both sides are nonprofits also. There are also cult groups out there. Now maybe that problem is solved by the city or the county being able to choose not to deal with them and to deal with more established religions...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...or more mainstream groups. But the point is this. If they can pick and choose and give dimensions to the thing, is that how we want to regulate it? Or shouldn't the state have some sort of role in this also, given the broad parameters illustrated by the prior conversations between Senator Landis and Senator Chambers? And, Senator Landis, I would leave you with one question, if you could answer on your time. When the tax assessor goes out and looks at a place like Bryan Hospital, which is part taxable...well, no, I guess that wouldn't fit because they're totally nontaxable, whatever the reason. But let's say another situation where part of the operation was taxable but part of it was nonprofit. How do they distinguish the situation?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I mean, I assume they don't allow it all to be nontaxable. But I think that would be instructive.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, on FA140.