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

April 5, 2005 LB 709

at HHS would be assigned to compile this information and see what they're going to say about costs. And they will know that I'm the one who's bringing this amendment so they're not, if they mess with me and fluff up that cost, it might be enough to persuade the body not to adopt the amendment. But by...on my oath, now I don't believe in...I'm just saying that for effect, I will punish them when their agency comes before us by way of the budget. If they lie, I will punish them royally, and the budget will not move without my punishing language as a part of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time. Senator Howard, then Senator Erdman.

SENATOR HOWARD: Mr. President and my learned colleagues, I put my light on in hopes that I may provide some information. was a question raised as to whether the data would be available through Health and Human Services, and I believe it is. believe it's in the N-FOCUS system, and this information is provided when someone comes in to apply for any of our assistance programs. So it shouldn't be a costly or a complicated method of compiling the information to be able to provide that. And I applaud Senator Chambers in that I really believe he's getting to a root cause of much of the increase in our cost here. I've seen this happen. I've seen the new poor that are coming into our system, and these really are people that have...that have held jobs and, in many cases, either could not afford the insurance or the insurance provided inadequate to meet the needs of their family, or possibly they opted not to pay out the cost of the insurance due to the amount of money they were raising and where they were trying to stretch that money to cover their family needs. So I support Senator Chambers in this and I think we're certainly headed down the right road with this request, and I would like to give the rest of my time, the remaining of my...remainder of my time to Senator Chambers. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I saw Senator Kermit...Senator Brashear on the floor, the "Silver Fox," and there's an issue that I thought he was going to raise