

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

April 6, 2005

LB 548

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Would Senator Jensen yield to a quick question?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Senator Jensen, I'm having a hard time tracking what Senator Erdman is talking about. As I read the bill, it says that you're...the fund is not being used to the extent that it actuarially could be, and you are allocating an additional \$500,000 to smoking cessation. Is that accurate?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes. Yes and no. Actually we were at \$2.5 million for smoking cessation, plus there was \$405,000 from General Funds that we were putting into this.

SENATOR BOURNE: That was the money we added last year as a compromise?

SENATOR JENSEN: That is correct.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: That was a compromise. So, rather than go back to the General Fund each year, that really is somewhat cumbersome, so we increased from \$2.5 to \$3 million a year for that smoking cessation program.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, and is that...okay, so the \$400,000 then would stay in the General Fund, and on an ongoing basis we're going to use an additional \$500,000 from the trust to fund the cessation.

SENATOR JENSEN: That is correct.

SENATOR BOURNE: And is that supported actuarially, meaning the fund can handle that?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, it is.

SENATOR BOURNE: Are we dipping into the principal by that change?