

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

April 25, 2005 LB 40

Sometimes we are spending up to \$500 a day. We know that by placing them under a roof in a rental that it may only be \$500 a month. So this was not wise and efficient use of the taxpayers' money and the overriding concern was where we could best deliver those kind of health services in the community near their family and friends and where they could continue to function in society, or whether it was best to put them in a regional setting. The bill was advanced last year. The bill was passed and adopted. One of the things that they talked about doing was putting an increase at that time of 50 cents into the doc. stamp tax. But because we had not had a public hearing on that purpose, I felt it was inappropriate to do so. So I asked the committee Chair to allow me to introduce a bill this year that would increase the doc. stamp tax by 50 cents, and that is the bill that is before you. It was heard in the Revenue Committee. It was advanced for your consideration. And the purpose of the bill is to make the Affordable Housing Trust Fund whole. Not only did we take out \$2 million a year for this purpose, but we also had a General Fund transfer of \$1.5 million a year for three years to deal with the fiscal crisis that we faced during the last budget crunch. So in fact we have taken a great deal of funding out of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. And this is a bill which I intend to make them whole. That is the purpose. It is very simple. There is a committee amendment and I have an amendment following. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. You've heard the opening on LB 40. As stated by the Clerk, there are Revenue Committee amendments. Senator Landis, as Chairman of that committee, you're recognized to open on AM0387.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, this bill needed an operative date and the committee chose October 1, 2005. The committee amendment is that operative date. I would report that the bill came out 7-0. There was one present and not voting, that was Senator Baker. If you take a look at the committee statement, there's a long list of supporters of the bill. I happen to be one of them. I ask for the adoption of the committee amendment, and then I