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

April 28, 2005 LB 645

it. But I would urge you to read first the highlights of this, and then there are some breakdowns as you get into where specific programs were dealt with in kind of a narrative state, and then the details are all here. But the thing that I want to say first is, there are only three things the Legislature has to They have to meet, they have to make a budget, and they have to adjourn. Well, this is the 70th day, and by our rules, this is why we're submitting this to you. I would like to thank some people in connection with this. First of all, I'd like to thank the members of the committee. And your Appropriations Committee has been working very diligently, very hard, and very cooperatively, and I've been very pleased at the way in which it It's very...they've been approached. conscientious, they've been very questioning. Secondly, I would like to thank the Fiscal Office. We are blessed in this state with a very good Fiscal Office, that works very hard, they're very accommodating, and I would suggest that if you have specific questions about this budget, that you take it up either with a member of the Appropriations Committee, or that you take it up with a member of the Fiscal Office. As you know, there are ten members of the fiscal staff that are assigned to various agencies, and they can give you some very informative information. Certainly, if you intend to propose any kind of an amendment to this budget bill, I would urge you to contact a member of the Fiscal Office, because they can assist you. many of these things that you may be interested in kind of overlap into other areas, and I think they can help you in forming an appropriate amendment in this regard. Also, I'd like to thank the Speaker, who very graciously has given us the additional time each day. Now I know you don't mind that you could go home at 4:00 in the afternoon, but we didn't. We went down and we met for about two hours each night. And you know, I think there's a benefit to a product that's done when people are awake, and I think it's helped us to have those two hours after the session has adjourned. And so I'm very pleased with what we have accomplished at this point, and I hope you understand what we have tried to do. I'd like to mention to you that we will have a briefing next Tuesday morning at 9:00 in Room 1524, and at that time, you can ask questions, you can understand the general terms of the budget proposal. An e-mail is going to each of your offices to remind you f this fact, but I would