

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 424

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schimek would move to amend the committee amendments with AM1372. (Legislative Journal page 1360.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendments to LB 424.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. This amendment is what is known, striking while the iron is hot, or maybe, striking while the furnace is cold. But it is an amendment to the Capitol Building Fund, or the Capital Improvements Fund. And it's found on page 26 of the committee amendment. And what it wants to do is it wants to say that the Capitol Administrator would be authorized to undertake, in 2005 and '06, a study on the Capitol heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system. Now, I was in the building on Monday, and I was...walked into my office at 10:00 in the morning, and my staff was huddled under sweaters and coats and what have you. I believe they had already blown a fuse twice (laugh) with the little space heater, which of course they're not supposed to do, but sometimes necessity dictates. And I walked down the hall, and I found that every other office was in the same kind of condition. People were cold. I can remember it wasn't too many weeks ago that people were roasting. And as you all know, there is not a lot of flexibility in our system, because we are tied to a system which has only two pipes into the building. And that means that before you can start the air conditioning system, you have to turn down the heating system, and vice versa. And what we probably really need is a system that has four pipes coming into the building, so that at any month of the year, you can shut off the air and turn on the heat, or vice versa, so that we have some flexibility in our system. And one of the things that I discovered when I got back to my office and started questioning whether we could do anything about it in the appropriations process, I discovered that indeed there is a master plan that calls for the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system to be studied. And I want to just read to you a little bit what this master plan says. It says, the current HVAC system, as it's called, in the Capitol was installed in the late 1960s, when central air conditioning was initially added to the Capitol. However, this system was