

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

May 4, 2005

LB 737

as I stated earlier, to talk about this in an interim study and do something for next year. But I would stress that I believe this is just an expired check, and the process says if you have an expired check you're supposed to go through the claims procedure. So I believe that those people are doing everything that they should do and, as I've said many times before during this discussion, it is a policy decision on your part, but I really truly wish that we could wait and work this out, get a little more information and try not to make a rash decision. I would wish we could do it this summer and fall and come to you next year. If we want to change the policy, we need to change the statutes completely. Thank you. I'll return my time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Erdman. Senator Erdman, that will not be necessary. There are no further lights on. Thank you anyway. Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to close on FA222.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I really didn't intend for this to go this far, but I will disagree with a couple of the statements that said that this has happened this year, we ought...it seems like to me, in my 19 years here, we've had something like this nearly every year where we've had expired warrants and we decide what to do. And it's been my observation that it's ended up being somewhat subjective as to whether we should do it or not. That's when it ultimately reaches this decision, there's got...there's...in spite of the fact you're trying to be objective, particularly in the Business and Labor Committee, we end up being somewhat subjective. And I remember a couple years ago when we had the one on the printer. And my mind says we had that two years in a row and we decided to turn it down. But, to me, it's not so much a statute of limitations. That's an issue for lawyers. This is, as it says on the check, expires in one year. To me, it's a matter of discipline in accounting procedures. I don't know how long we can let a check run. It doesn't bother me if you want to...if we're going to let a check hang out there for ten years and somebody brings it in and you do it. I understand that. I understand Senator Beutler's where we turn it over to lost and found, if you will, unclaimed credits. But somewhere along the line we have to have some discipline in our state