

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 425

CLERK: Senator Stuthman offers AM1470, Mr. President.
(Legislative Journal page 1392.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuthman, to open.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. My amendment has to do with county reimbursement for jail inmates. What this bill is...I'll give you a little bit of history of how we got to this point, where we're at and what took place several years ago. In 1998, LB 695 was introduced by Senator Cudaback and was passed on April 9, 1998, and this bill did accomplish an override of the Governor. And this bill had put \$5,500,000 in the fund to be reimbursed to county for inmates that were for the state prisons, county reimbursement, property tax relief. What had happened was, that did take place for a couple of years, but in 2002 at the Special Session, there was a bill that did pass, and I'll read you the portion of that is. It says: Beginning with the fiscal year 2003-04 and each fiscal year thereafter, the total amount appropriated approval...for the Legislature for the Department of county jail reimbursement assistance shall not exceed \$3,910,000. What my amendment states is that on page 86, lines 20 and 21, strike each occurrence of \$3,501,405 and insert \$3,910,000; and in lines 24 and 26, strike \$3,501,405 and insert \$3,910,000. What I want to do is I want to give you a little bit of history. Yes, the Appropriations Committee--and I really appreciate it--they did appropriate \$3.5 million for the 2006 budget year and 2007. This program does cost, realistically, of the amount of prisoners and the county reimbursement of \$35 a day, would cost \$7.9 million, if we funded the whole program, as what the intent was to be when it was initiated in 1998. But since that time of budgetary problems has occurred, and the passage of the bill in 2002, I just feel that I would like to see that we would at least get up to that amount of \$3,910,000. And that is what I am trying to accomplish with this. I would like to hear some of the discussion and then I'm going to see where I'm going to go with it at that time. Senator Bourne also signed onto this bill, and I don't know if he wants any of my time. I do not see him in the Chamber right now. But with that, those are my opening comments. I'm realistically asking for about another