

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

the...as I refer to, the iron claw of the Appropriations Committee, and allowing for deviations from the Appropriations Committee's bill. Is that accurate?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: That description makes me feel kind of draconian, to be honest with you, Senator Bourne--the iron claw. But I would say that if we are not going to comply with this particular statute, that we should modify the statute. And we haven't done that yet. But I think that there is an obligation, and my objection at this time has to do with the fact that it would open a floodgate of restorations which we can't afford.

SENATOR BOURNE: Do those restorations that you're alluding to, are there statutory obligations for each of those, or is this one unique?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'm not sure that there are others that are statutory.

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time. Thank you Senators Bourne and Pederson. Senator Louden, your light is next.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I guess as I look at that and what our counties are going through, most of our counties are usually maxed out at their levy limits or close to it on some of them. And my take on the situation would be it isn't necessarily any restoration of funding. It would be a way of helping on property taxes, because if the counties are near their maximum levy limit and they have to go ahead and fund this for these prisoners until they're incarcerated down on state property, they have to use money from some other means. And usually, whether it comes out of their road funds or whatever funds it comes out of, there are other funds that they have to use in order to pay for this. So I would think that if there is any give in this state budget that we're working on, this would be a good opportunity to probably put some of it back into the counties to help alleviate property taxes. It wouldn't be a great deal, but it would be that much. And some of the counties that are at their levy