

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

obligation? That is the concern. And why don't we fulfill our obligations? I think that should be part of the budget process. There are obligations that are not being met, and that's a real concern. The money that was received in, I think it was 2003, for the jail reimbursement,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...that the first three quarters they did get reimbursed for part of it.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: The fourth quarter they didn't get any. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman and Senator Cudaback. Senator Bourne, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Madam President and members. I won't speak again on this, but I think if you listened, we had a discussion, Senator Pederson and I, and as he mentioned, it was his priority bill. But I...you know, I spent, I don't know, it was a year or 18 months on the Appropriations Committee. And I'll tell you for the new members, once they got you in their claw there, they don't let you up. And it changes the way you think. And I appreciate Senator Pederson's conservatism on the budget and commend him and the committee for that work. But it's like when you get on that committee you have a fundamental change in the way you look at the world. And two years ago, and I'm not criticizing Senator Pederson at all, but two years ago he sent out this letter saying that the state needs to meet this obligation. And I understand when he gets on the Appropriations Committee things change and there's other pressing needs, and yet I still feel that we should fund this. And Senator Chambers can say it's not a debt and that you can't sue because it's not a debt, but I'll tell you it's an obligation. And these counties relied on it and the state, in my mind, is thumbing their nose at these counties, and that's wrong. And Senator Stuthman said it quite well when he said this is property tax relief. And I think that if we do nothing else, I argued on the