

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

May 11, 2005

LB 425

reimbursed for that. And in view of the fact that we are authorized to go up to the \$3,910,000, I think that it's appropriate that, if you are willing, that we revise our budget to fill in this additional amount and that it would raise it, in effect, over the two-year period by \$817,190. That's a lot of money, but it's also a lot of obligation that the state has, and they have it to one of our sister entities, the counties, who I know are distressed. I think it would be appropriate for us to consider doing this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. This is a fairness issue. This is something that we have imposed upon the counties when times were tough. We're seeing a little daylight now and I think it's very important that we do all we can to do some...to redo something that we imposed upon the counties. And I think a lot of your counties that are closer to Lincoln probably...and with a major city in them, are the ones that are most affected by this. Because of the crime rate in those counties, more people, you're going to have more prisoners that are actually wards of the state, and the counties are helping to...helping the state out by doing this, and that, as Senator Stuthman said, is not the whole entire expense. So a lot of that is going back onto the tax...or the property taxpayers in those counties, which I think is unfair that we are...we should be using sales and income tax dollars to reimburse or to keep those prisoners in the county jails. So with that, I am...stand here to support of Senator Stuthman's amendment. Thank goodness that he saw the light and asked for these dollars. It's not a lot of money, but I will be supporting him. With that, Senator Cudaback, I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'd also like to rise in support of the amendment. This is an issue that I've worked on before and I want to thank Senator Stuthman for bringing it forward. Now I'd like to change horses, if I