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LB 425

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Would Senator Stuthman yield to some questions?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes, I would.

SENATOR BURLING: Senator Stuthman, I don't know if you have the answer to these or not.

SENATOR ENGEL: Senator Stuthman, will you respond?

SENATOR BURLING: If you don't, that's fine, but otherwise I'm kind of curious. Do you know that on an average across the state are these state prisoners in county facilities causing significant overcrowding for our counties?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes, they do, because I do realize counties are overcrowded and they don't know where to go, but they have no place to go with them, and the prisoners that they should not have to be housing they're having to house. So it is a major problem.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you. Now, I realize that this would change daily, but do you have any idea of an approximate number of state prisoners that are in county facilities right now? If you don't know that, that's fine.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: I don't have the number right on the top of my head, but I'm sure I could find it.

SENATOR BURLING: Now, do you think...Senator Stuthman, do you think that the reason for so many state prisoners in county facilities is overcrowding or full capacity of state facilities, or is it logistics of getting them transported, or is it economics? Obviously, if we're not paying the bill, why, it's a good economic decision to put our state prisoners there. But do you know? Maybe it's all three.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: I think it would probably be all three of them, but I realistically think that the majority of the prisoners, the state correctional facilities are full all of the