

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

May 11, 2005

LB 425

Louden voting yes. Senator Howard voting yes. Senator Cornett voting yes. Senator Pahls voting yes. Senator Cunningham voting yes. Senator Flood voting yes. Senator Heidemann voting yes. Senator Fischer voting yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. Debate does cease. Senator...and I do raise the call. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close on AM1590.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, this amendment does simply one thing. Instead of taking the money out of the Cash Reserve Fund, it takes the money out of General Funds. And some people who I really can't understand why they would be arguing this are arguing that this is no big deal. But this is a big deal, in terms of precedent set and what we're doing. If you have an expenditure that is an ongoing expenditure, intended to be an ongoing expenditure, you take it out of General Funds and you build it into your base, so that you know where you are each year, in terms of your ongoing expenditures. You do not fund ongoing expenses out of funds that are essentially one-time funds, Cash Reserve Fund. It should be built into the General Fund base. There is no question but that they intend to use all this money. I asked the director of Economic Development, are you going to use this money? And the answer was, yes, we're going to use this money. The assumption here is that we will be spending \$7.5 million or more. There's actually money already money in that particular budget. We're going to be spending maybe \$8.5 million a year on job training now, instead of \$1 million to \$2 million a year. That may be okay. I would contend that we should have a discussion on that. And we're not going to have that discussion here, because we can't look at the statutes. But that's a separate question. The big important question here is whether you're going to allow us to depart from the practices that we traditionally have practiced, in the Appropriations Committee, on this floor, of not hiding our expenditures, but showing them on the budget, if they are ongoing expenses. And this is an ongoing expense. You're not