

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

May 20, 2005

LB 117

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I respectfully would ask the Clerk to withdraw this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: AM1668 is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next amendment, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Synowiecki would move to amend with AM1663. (Legislative Journal page 1675.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Synowiecki, you're recognized to open on AM1663 to LB 117.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Much of the discussion and much of the components of this bill--matter of fact, so far all of it--has focused on the criminal justice interventions on the front end. And I believe that our public policy focus on this should be all-encompassing and provide for statutory mechanisms to deal with this population on the back end of our criminal justice system, on the post-conviction area. A lot of the discussion relative to this meth bill has been on the inconveniences to the general public that will be brought on as a result of the components of this bill. Well, I believe it is important that this bill also include attention toward those that have been found to have violated sections of this law and are using illegal drugs, and to give our probation and parole people, the post-conviction people within our criminal justice system, the statutory tools necessary to carry out and to be effective in dealing with this population in the post-conviction realm. With that, this amendment does essentially three things. It updates our statutes relative to the recognition that the meth addict encompasses certain mental health problems. I think anyone that has any degree of experience in working with this population would admit that, particularly those that are severely addicted to meth, that there is a mental health component to this. And this bill opens up the sections in law relative to probation and