

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

May 24, 2005

LB 538

to LB 538. Have you all voted who wish to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The committee amendments have been adopted. Anything further on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Discussion on E & R Initial advancement? Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I just wanted to rise and thank the Judiciary Committee for your hard work on the bill. I want to thank Senator Brashear for working with me on a couple of issues within the bill. And in particular, the reason why I'm getting up is to thank the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee is playing a very complementary role to our aspirations to get at a point where we feel comfortable with our community corrections program where we have real substantive alternatives to those, to that population of offenders that don't need a penitentiary setting, that they can be better served, and monetarily a lot cheaper for us, in the community, and that's ultimately the goal. And because of the work of what the Appropriations Committee did in terms of the personnel adjustments to the probation budget, we are now on course to do some real neat things, quite frankly, and I just hope that we can keep this all intact, that the probation personnel segment of this stays intact through this process, through legislative process, and then the programming and treatment needs comes out of the Community Corrections Council, so that it is really, truly a unique collaboration between the executive branch, judicial branch, Appropriations Committee, Judiciary Committee, all coming together with a streamlined agreement that we need to do something with our Department of Correctional (sic) cost. We had been experiencing double-digit increases year in and year out since I've been down here, and this is our first real substantive step in the direction of offsetting the Department of Corrections budget items; and