

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

January 31, 2006 LB 14

January 6 of last year. (Read title.) The bill was introduced in January, as I indicated, referred to the Urban Affairs Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have Urban Affairs Committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0135, Legislative Journal page 382, First Session, 2005.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Landis, to open on LB 14.

SENATOR LANDIS: Don't worry, it's not the other natural gas bill. This one is the simple little administrative one, okay? Three little things in this--Senator Friend and I introduced this bill together: one is to correct a term; one is to raise the cap for...that the PSC can take from investor-owned utilities for administration; and lastly, it extends the time frame at the end of the quarter to allow the issuing of quarterly assessments. Currently, the PSC is given 15 days; this gives them 30 days to do that quarterly assessment. Secondly, it raises from .6 percent to 1 percent for a jurisdictional utility of their gross operating revenue, less gas cost, derived from intrastate natural gas utility business for the purpose of funding the regulation of the PSC, meaning the investigatory process in a rate analysis case. We've gone through a rate case. Our existing standard worked in that case, but it was a negotiated solution and didn't press the PSC to the sum total of their investigative expenses. Remember that we not only do the PSC's, but we also do the public advocate's money as well. In the event they were to have more than one rate case a year, they predict that the existing cap would not succeed and allow them to do their business. It is possible that there could be more than one rate case, given the fact that there's more than one natural gas company in the state, so the PSC asks us to raise from .6 to 1 percent the cap on their assessment practices. The industry has no objection. I would ask for the advancement of the bill. The committee did ask for the emergency clause. Good idea. I think Senator Friend will take care of that, and I will support him in the addition of the emergency clause.

SENATOR CUDABACK: As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments offered by the Urban Affairs Committee. Senator