

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 10, 2006 LB 85A

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Flood, for a motion, please.

SENATOR FLOOD: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 85A.

SENATOR CUDABACK: There's been a motion to adopt the E & R amendments to LB 85A. All in favor of the motion say aye. Opposed, nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend. (FA437, Legislative Journal page 615.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your amendment to LB 85A.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a bill which deals with allowing people to put more money into one of these pre-need burial irrevocable trusts. And the amount of money put in that trust would not be deemed a part of the individual's assets when determining eligibility for Medicaid. In addition to that, each year, I think the date is September 1, there would be a cost-of-living increase...there would be an increase based on the percentage change in the cost-of-living index. So this amount would automatically increase each year. The discussion that I had with Senator Byars on the A bill dealt with the speculative nature of how many people would be taking advantage of this, and how much it would cost the state in terms of doing whatever is necessary to make adjustments due to this bill as far as the number of people, I presume who are in nursing homes, who may be able to take advantage of this and thereby become eligible for Medicaid benefits which otherwise they would not. If anything I've said is inaccurate, Senator Byars can correct me. And I see he is consulting with Senator Jensen, so between them we have a brain trust who can correct anything I've said which may be inaccurate. Due to the speculative nature and the relatively small amount of money that may be involved--we don't know what the amount ultimately is going to be--I believe, that considering the overall budget of Health and Human Services, this amount, whatever it turns out to be, can be absorbed. I