

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

March 14, 2006 LB 1060

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. As stated by the Mr. Clerk, Senator Thompson, you're the first to speak on the motion to reconsider.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. In reviewing the amendment that was adopted, that we're reconsidering, I think it's important to note that currently...I don't see anything in current law that prohibits the department from doing this anyway. And it seems to me appropriate that this be, the underlying the section that was voted on, should be considered as a substantive bill rather than an amendment to the appropriations bill. As we were discussing at the very end, right before lunch, this is going to provide intent language, which the department would basically be doing for one year. And if Senator Foley really wants to change the whole way this operates, first of all, he can just call the Governor or talk to them about doing that, because the way I read it, it's just an appropriation to the agency and they could do it already. But second, I don't think it's good policy to put this on appropriations bill to direct contracting for a one year purpose, especially when it's going to take quite...this is a direct reimbursement and it's going to take awhile to get people geared up for that. I think this is an inappropriate place to be putting it in statute. I think it deserves to be considered as an actual bill coming to the floor. I appreciate Senator Janssen's efforts to have...to increase funding. If we adopt this...if we don't reconsider, if we don't reconsider, what we're doing and why we're...this afternoon, we're putting the department in a position and the providers in a position that some will be gearing up, some will be hoping to continue. There could be significant problems in how these services continue to be delivered. It would make more sense to continue what we've been doing, and basically the history of it is, as you've heard earlier, is when the original services were started, these were the only agencies equipped to do it and the only agencies that applied. The services...the department then asked a second time. No one else offered to do it. So now we as a Legislature, instead of the way we normally do services, there are hundreds of providers in the state, but a lot of these