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FLOOR DEBATE

March 14, 2006 LB 605

year from fiscal year 1999 through '08-09, and those projects are being finished up this year. These require one-to-one matching funds from the university. Fourteen buildings have been renovated at a cost of \$79 million. For the state college system, \$400,000 per year was allocated from 1999 through fiscal year '08-09, and this initiative allowed for \$7 million in investment in those buildings. And you've received from Senator Pederson a longer version of all of this information about what was accomplished. The bill that you have before you extends that same principle that was passed in 1998, allowing the issuance of revenue bonds to move things along more quickly and get to a lot of the needed projects that have been put aside during our difficult budget times, and also ones that we've neglected for a long time and they need some immediate addressing. Also, it will provide for ways to modernize and make classroom teaching more effective, get the buildings in conditions that are attractive to students who may choose to come to the state, and students who may choose to stay in the state, and we need to make sure that our education processes and the way that we serve those students and the way we teach has the facilities that support that high-level education. This is, as I said, kind of the daughter of LB 1100 of 1998, a very similar process to be able to extend into the future, and I will stop there because Senator Pederson will be introducing the committee amendment, or the amendment that will become the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR BRASHEAR PRESIDING

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Thompson. You've heard the opening on LB 605. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the Appropriations Committee would offer AM1285.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Senator Don Pederson, you're recognized to open. Thank you.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'm very proud to have the opportunity to prioritize this bill that Senator Thompson has brought. This is something that we