

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

March 27, 2006 LB 1199

is drafted, the Department of Corrections has to tell the county attorney and the Attorney General 120 days prior to release, and then I believe 90 days...if the county attorney decides not to do anything, he or she has to notify the Attorney General 90 days out that it's up to the Attorney General. And so the Attorney General would then look at the case and determine whether or not to begin civil commitment hearings. So we've got kind of a belt and suspender approach, and I feel this was the biggest hole in our system, biggest problem.

SENATOR JANSSEN: So you will have a 90-day window, is that correct?

SENATOR BOURNE: Absolutely.

SENATOR JANSSEN: All right. All right. Thank you, Senator Bourne. I have no other questions at this time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. On with discussion. Senator Engel, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, when Iowa passed their law here this last year, anybody living on the border realized that we had to do something. South Sioux City, right across the river from Sioux City, Iowa, in a reactive state, they did pass the same law that would be no residence within 2,000 feet. I know...and since then many communities across the state have done the same thing. So I'm very happy that Senator Bourne and others have come up with this bill to come up with some real legislation to penalize and keep these people away from the youth. But the thing is, like I say, we were reactive and this is proactive, and that I appreciated. But, you know, people are concerned about these sexual predators as far as their rights and so forth. As far as I'm concerned, I think they lost their rights when they first molested the first child or any child. And I talked to a judge one time. I told him, I have a cure. He said, I would like that, too, but you know we can't do that. And I said, I know that, so let's get as close to it as we can. And I think that's what we're doing here. Now the only thing is, people forget that that child is affected for life. Now these people get 15 years or they get 25