

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

April 3, 2006

LB 994

requirements?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you. Thanks, Senator Erdman. I appreciate your bringing this. Originally, we had hoped to have no fiscal note on this. It is already happening in some areas. There are materials out there that are available just for reproducing it. When we got to discussing it with the department, they felt that they needed to do some standardization types of issues. So they would be able to use what's already available or they would, because of the fiscal note, be able to develop their own materials. So I guess it was our hope in writing the bill that, being somewhat frugal here, we could use existing materials. But we couldn't require the department. They want to review and make sure that they have the most current up-to-date information and so forth. Does that answer...

SENATOR ERDMAN: Well, it does a little bit. I guess my concern about this language is not necessarily about what you're trying to accomplish. But if you read this, where it says the department can approve the materials and video presentations, which I think is appropriate because you do have entities out there that are doing this now, the training and the opportunity to educate young parents about the circumstances that they may not be aware of. But later on, it requires that any...that the presentation, the materials, and the forms shall be provided by the department. So if a hospital currently is doing this and they get approval from the Department of Health and Human Services for the presentation that they're doing, now the department will have to go purchase that material from the hospital. Hopefully, it would be gifted to them or some agreeable circumstance. But essentially, even if there are non-HHS-related programs that are created, they have to be responsible for providing them. And I hope that you can give me some more information about how you see this working to make sure that we don't run into a circumstance where they have to approve something and then turn around and actually purchase or receive that so that they can redistribute it. Go ahead.

SENATOR THOMPSON: How about a quick floor amendment to change line 22, the "shall" to "may"?