

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

April 12, 2006

proposals that would have done more than what we were asked to do. And we were told that we couldn't do that, and so we would do this. And now we evidently can't even do this. So this is phenomenal. This is good lawmaking, or whatever you want to call it. I would like to ask Senator Hudkins a few questions, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hudkins, would you yield?

SENATOR HUDKINS: Yes, yes I would.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Senator Hudkins, I can understand the concern or possibly the frustration that you may feel after this process. But explain to me why the decision was made--when the obvious focus is to address the retirement issue to not affect other committees--why the decision was made to return the other committees back to their previous committee membership as well.

SENATOR HUDKINS: At the time that this was changed, some of the committees felt that because they were dealing with an extremely large amount of money that they really did more membership to help make that decision. So the Health and Human Services Committee was increased at the expense of the Government Committee. And we figured, you know, if we're going back to square one, we might as well really go back to square one.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay, thank you, Senator Hudkins. Members of the Legislature, I, at this point, don't care, to be honest with you. For the past three years, I have been working to try to come up with a more logical process for our committees to meet. I think the language that was adopted actually provided more flexibility for committees to be able to meet at appropriate times at the approval of the Executive Board, which is being stricken. I can accept this whole process. I think it's unfortunate that we as a Legislature can't analyze our process and decide that we have areas that need to be addressed, not only in law but in our process. And unfortunately, we're being asked to go back to that old process that, for the last 20 years, we've been talking about trying to fix. So we're going to go back to where we were, that way we can maintain the status quo around here. And again, I'm just extremely amazed at