

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I hesitate to do this because I enjoyed Senator Brashear's comments immensely and I don't want to hurt his reputation among his constituents. But if he continues to give those kind of thoughtful, insightful presentations, I'm going to make him an honorary member on my side of the bell curve. (Laughter.) Then we will be able to surround the Legislature. I'm in the front, he takes care of that part, and all in the middle is at our mercy. But, in reality, I'm glad that he did bring into proper focus what this bill is and his amendment really did underscore it very well. We are most responsible as policymakers when we cut through all of the chaff that might be associated with an issue such as this and that chaff often is brought into play by people who don't really understand. So instead of our buying into that and going along with it, we are most helpful to the public when we do cut through it and point out what it is that we're really dealing with and then place our votes in accord with that. Not one prosecutor spoke against this bill. Not one judge, not any of those who you might expect to come forward if, indeed, this was something that is favoring criminals and all the other things that have been said. I'm just going to say again, and then take my seat, that it's a tool of management for those who have to operate these facilities. And, remember, a person must serve seven days before there can be any consideration of good time. If we leave the law as it is now and a person must serve 14 days, then anybody with a sentence shorter than 14 days is in that situation where the correctional administrators and the guards have nothing they can use as an inducement to that person to comply with the rules. And it really is a difficult set of circumstances when you have so many people stacked on top of each other, as is the case in these institutions. Studies have been made using animals and using human beings, and the conclusion has been reached and documented and confirmed, reconfirmed over and over, that every individual needs a certain amount of space in order for aggression not to spontaneously manifest itself. When a person feels that his or her space is being intruded upon, even if it's, say, in the aisle of the Legislature, on the street, and somebody stands closer to you than you want them to, there is a negative reaction that develops in that person. Some control it better than others, so there may be no outward showing of it, but inside there is a reaction. When you put a lot of people in a small geographic area, such as some of the overcrowded neighborhoods, there is predictably a greater outbreak of violence and other antisocial conduct. When they do it with