

Moore, do you wish to open on the bill?

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you very much, Madam President. LB 322 in its present form broadens significantly types of state purchases that have to come under our current competitive bidding statutes on the purchase of goods. Obviously in present day durable goods, cars, computer hardware I believe, those sorts of things, all have to go through the competitive bidding process. Lots of things like computer consulting services, accountings, accountants, a variety of things, actually when we think about, there's about \$60 million worth of state services which are purchased by various state entities that have no bidding process, \$60 million. Now with our exemptions we've whittled that down so that it does not include that whole \$60 million but there is still lot...and I can't give you an exact number, there's still tens of millions of dollars included in this bill that now, quite honestly, I'm not saying it's good or bad, but now, quite honestly, what occurs or what may occur is that an agency, and I, in any way, shape or form want to imply that something sinister is going on, but the fact is there is no oversight, there is no bidding, there is no nothing, simply an agreement between the state agency and whoever is providing the goods and an agreed upon dollar amount. I mean lots of times...I know on some occasions there has been things where nobody, other entities both within state government and outside of state government could have done that service but didn't know about it until it was read in the paper, that until they read it in the paper, that the contract had already been signed. Many come to me and argue they could have done it cheaper and would have bid much cheaper. I think it's important we don't narrow it just on the lowest bid because it's very clear, very clearly stated out that the lowest bid doesn't automatically win and all of us have been involved in enough things to know that the lowest bid over the long term may not necessarily be the cheapest bid. There are many occasions where a bid up a few notches is going to give you the quality and the durability to go on and in the long run though they may pay a little more up front. If you can prove that in the long run you're going to save money by going with that higher bid, you can do that and this statute certainly allows that to occur. And so don't be confused it will force an agency simply to go with the lowest bidder, that is not the intent of this. The intent is simply to open that process up and so anybody in the private sector, when there are things occurring that different private individuals can perform those functions, they can come in and at least make