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April 17, 2001 LB 242

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Excuse me? Is that what...because...

SENATOR CUDABACK: If you do that, please, Senator Wickersham,...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. Thank...

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...bring us up-to-date for...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...a minute or so on the...on the past conversations with the bill.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. The bill deals with a couple of different areas in state law: conflicts of interest for members of the Legislature; for the members of the executive branch; and, of course, for members or officers or officials of political subdivisions. Currently, there are rules in the law for all three types of officials. This separates them out, makes some of them a little bit more clear, and we'll have a little bit of discussion about those rules a little bit later on with one of the amendments that's being offered. It also...the bill also concerns nepotism...what I would characterize as nepotism rules. There are rules that are applicable at the local level; there are rules that are applicable at the state level. It also...and, again, this is an area that we will talk about in one of the amendments this morning. There is a broad prohibition in current state law against the use of public resources in support of a ballot issue or a candidate. That is an appropriate rule. That rule has...that statute has been interpreted, if you will, by rulings from the Accountability and Disclosure Commission, which I think take into account a number of very sensible things. For example, if you're going to use a high school gymnasium, for example, for a candidate forum or for an information session on a ballot issue, that would be allowed, and it adds specific language to the statutes that would allow that. It contains an exception that would allow members of the Legislature, for example, to respond to constituent inquiries concerning a ballot issue. If you read the language literally,