

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2001 LB 242

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, this amendment represents a series of minor amendments that are agreeable to Senator Wickersham. It starts out on page 6, which is the provision relating to officials of a political subdivision and their financial benefits, a section of law, which indicates that if they have a potential conflict, they need to file a written statement and they deliver a copy of that statement to the commission. Well, this little amendment just says that you deliver a copy of it, in addition to the commission, to your local political subdivision and the one who keeps the records, so that the people who really need to know about this are put on notice. That's the one amendment. The second amendment strikes the criminal penalty that applies to the provision related to political subdivisions for the reason that we don't have criminal penalty provisions pertaining to similar sections of law but rely upon civil penalties, so we make that like...like the other subdivisions. And then there's a clarification on line 25 of page 6 so that it's clear that that particular section of law, Section 5, applies to state government and not beyond state government. Actually it's kind of interesting to note when you say "An official or employee of the executive branch of state government shall not employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member", would you intend that to apply to a recommendation to a private industry to a company or to private industry anywhere that your wife or brother or sister ought to be employed by them? I mean, should the Governor of the state be able to do that? Probably we would think not. But this provision isn't in any...in any event intended to apply to that kind of situation, and this amendment so says. And that, I think, is about all except for subdivision (3) of the amendment and that was a provision that was also simply intended for clarification but it involved the Exec Board and the prerogatives of the Exec Board and, frankly, I didn't get that...that language quite right and I think Senator Coordsen has an amendment to strike subsection (3) so I'm not even going to tell you about it because I think he's right. But that's the thrust of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Mr. Clerk, item to the amendment?