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LB 273

compliance with the requirements for licensure. The goal of the committee amendments is to accommodate the legitimate production of industrial hemp but avoid complicating and undermining the enforcement of our drug laws. Testimony of drug...of law enforcement suggests that the bill, as written, would add to the burden and expense of law enforcement if prosecutors were required to prove that the THC content of the substance exceeded that of industrial hemp. The amendment makes it clear that marijuana only exists...only excludes industrial hemp in the possession of a person licensed to grow industrial hemp. The purpose is not to add to the burden of a law enforcement when a person arrested for suspected marijuana possession is not licensed under the bill. We received communication from the Fiscal Office that the State Patrol has agreed that if the committee amendments are adopted this fiscal note will be changed to minimal fiscal impact. Finally, the committee amendments omit original Sections 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 of the bill, intended as harmonization with various areas of law. Generally, the original sections excluded or prohibited naming industrial hemp a noxious weed; limited the ability of cities to require lot owners to mow vacant lots, vacant lots or...of excessive weed growth if the weed in question was industrial hemp. The committee found these harmonizations unnecessary for purposes of the bill. The omission of these sections reduces the length of the bill from 41 pages down to 12. I believe the committee amendment made a reasonable attempt to resolve the concerns of law enforcement and I urge the body's adoption of the committee amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments to LB 273 offered by Chairman of the Ag Committee, Senator Dierks. Now open for discussion on the committee amendment. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Dwite Pedersen, Jensen, and Stuhr. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: I'd like to speak to the bill, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Be quite honest with you, I wasn't ready with