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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 425

SENATOR CUDABACK: Do you have any items for the record, Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: I have none at this time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: We will now move on to...back to General File, budget bills. Mr. Clerk, LB 425.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 425 was introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 13, referred to the Appropriations Committee. The committee has reported the bill to General File with committee amendments attached. (AM0521, Legislative Journal page 1334.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Pederson, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, you're recognized to open on LB 425.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. On Tuesday, we had the opportunity to visit with many of you concerning the intention, kind of a briefing, primarily for this particular bill. And I was glad that so many of you were able to be there. However, for the record, I'd like to make a few comments that I think would be appropriate in connection with this. And let me begin by saying that when I ran for Chair of the Appropriations Committee, I had three goals. And those three had to do with helping those people that can't help themselves, providing appropriate educational opportunities for our citizens, and having economic opportunities so that after they get out of school there are jobs for them. So it's a multifaceted package that we have. I'm having a little trouble hearing, Mr. President. Could you rap the gavel?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Members, would you please show respect for the speaker and keep the buzz down.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to review just for a moment what we did when we started. In