

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 7, 2006

LB 1175

(Legislative Journal page 826.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Friend, to open on AM2517.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you again, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Following the advancement of LB 1175 to General File with the committee amendment, I was approached by representatives--myself and Mr. Stadtwald, legal counsel--approached by representatives from the State Treasurer's Office who wanted some additional guidance or information on how to plan for operation in regard to the MFO program under the proposed new language that we had. After discussions, we drafted AM2517, and that clarifies the meaning of this language in LB 1175, and we believe that it tightens it. The intent of the original language is preserved, we also believe, with this new language. Instead of the broad discretion granted in the original language, the new provision makes it clear that what is sought is simply the basic information on how a mutual finance organization has handled prior state distributions under the program. Part of the question came into it, look, you know, we're talking about an FTE, we're talking about a full-time employee here. No, we're not. We want to be able to get this information back. We want the Treasurer to act almost as a repository, then the information comes back to the Legislature. That's what we want. We want to find out where this \$4 million, if need be, is going. That's all. That's what this Legislature wants. Instead of the broad discretion granted in the original language, the new provision makes it clear that what is sought is simply the basic information on how an MFO has handled prior state distributions under the program. That would include this information with their application for new assistance, and would not receive any distributions in the future until the requested information has been provided. The information would be provided to the Legislature on an annual basis, so that we would be able...so that we would have the basic information on how the money is being spent and whether or not the intent of the Legislature is being met. The amendment makes LB 1175 more focused, in our view, and gets us what we need to be more...gets us what we need to be, and that being more effective policymakers, hopefully. With that, I would be happy to field any questions on AM2517 or