

CLERK: Mr. President, 179, I have a motion to return the bill. Senator Maurstad would move to return for an amendment found on page 713 of the Journal.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is really not a controversial amendment. It attempts to do two things. First of all, the bill itself refers to Sections 11-101 to 11-130. It talks about the bonding of the county officials and elected and/or appointed. What the first thing that the amendment does is strikes reference to county employees. The balance of the section that I referred to earlier applies to county officials also. It does not apply to county employees. The purpose of the bill is to be able to allow for a blanket bond to include public officials and county employees. Counties can already issue a blanket bond for the balance of the county employees and so it's not necessary and, to be consistent with the balance of the statute, I think it's important to take out any reference to county employees. The second thing that it does is inserts in the aggregate of on line 14 of page 4, or line 12 on page 4, so that it's clear that the blanket bond needs to be in an amount at least aggregate to all of the bond amounts for the various elected county officials. It does not, in my opinion, change the intent of Senator Vrtiska, who introduced the bill. Prior to my missing proposing this amendment on Select File originally, this amendment was agreed to by Jack Mills of the County Officials. And so that's the purpose of the amendment, and I would urge the body to adopt the amendment to return this to Select File.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I support the amendment. It does nothing but clean up the sections that...the areas that Senator Maurstad talked about. I'm pleased that he was able to note those and take it into account and make sure that the bill was doing what we expected it to do and it merely allows the counties to have an aggregate bond rather than separate bonds, if that's their desire, and it certainly doesn't mandate them to do that. And so I support the Maurstad amendment to my bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Any further discussion? Senator Maurstad, there is none, you are recognized