

January 24, 1996 LB 642

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I need to stand up for just a second because I endorse the amendment as it was written the last time, I do not endorse the amendment with this outside consultant on it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, would you like to close, yours is the last light on.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Certainly. Mr. President, members of the body, I feel very, very strongly that a review process is needed if we are talking about a pilot project that is automatically going to go statewide. I...I think we need it anyway whether it automatically goes statewide or not. But I feel even more strongly that if it does go automatically that we ought to have this review process. Now, Senator Pedersen, I mean I wouldn't have a huge horrible objection if you struck the consultant, but I do think that you...with an outside consultant you do get a better chance of not being accused of some kind of bias or something. You have presumably somebody who has a little bit more time to look into it, I mean sometimes our studies are good but oftentimes they are not as good as a consultant could do. I just...I guess either way is fine with me, but I think the outside consultant...when we are talking about the money, I mean we are talking about a very important program change here and I don't think it is a lot of money. We haven't even really gotten into, I haven't anyway, gotten into the fiscal impact of this bill and I do have some questions along that line because I think it is going to cost us more in the long run to switch over to this program. I think we need to know the answers to those kinds of questions and I think we need some time to reflect after we know that report so that we know whether we want to continue with the implementation or not. That is my only problem with my own amendment right now, is I don't think we allow enough time. David Bernard-Stevens' argument is very persuasive. You know, we really wouldn't be pushed for time on this if we simply took the statewide implementation out of here and gave ourselves some time to reflect afterwards. And to me that would be the best solution. But that is not on the floor right now and I certainly don't want to do away with the review in the expectation or hopes that some other amendment on down the line might pass that would give us more time, so I would plead with you to adopt this amendment for the review. And if we need to do some time changing on it or something, we can do

10289