

(See page 1031 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Dierks to open on his amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. This amendment that I'm offering you today I think is something that I've had some difficulties with as long as we've dealt with 1044, and that's the confidentiality issue. It came out a little bit more clearly yesterday noon when Dr. Ann Coyne was over here visiting with us. And the administration has seen, the department has seen that there's a necessity to make this change. So what we're doing is adding, in this amendment, and I've had it passed out to you, it's AM3512. And that's amendment to...actually AM2978, which I also had passed out to you so you could refer to it if you want to, and it goes line 7...or I mean page 4 of the green copy, line 20, and it adds that the information of AM3512, which says, "Coordination and exchange among the departments of financial and programmatic information, including, but not limited to, medical records, client records, vital records, and other documents or data otherwise confidential". And it allows for us to provide a study during the interim, the study to be completed by December 1 and reported to the Legislature. I think this was pretty commonly accepted as a problem at our meeting yesterday at noon. And as you all know, I've had some difficulty with confidentiality, especially concerning HIV/AIDS patients over in the Department of Health. They had convinced us a number of years ago that the confidentiality is well protected and that we don't have any problems with it. And I just wanted to make sure that during this change that comes about with 1044, that we continue to protect that confidentiality. And I'm concerned, of course, about the HIV and AIDS reporting, but there are also some other areas that we need to protect confidentiality, adoption records, Child Protective Services, to name a few, and I would just ask for your support of this amendment. Actually the amendment does delete references in the legislation, in the green copy, on...if you look at page 12, lines 5 to 12, in the green copy, that language is deleted. There are three other, two other sections that are just the same in the bill, the same language, that deal, each one of these sections deals with the different three organizations that will be established by this bill, three departments. So on lines 20 to 26 on page 17 it's the same language, and I believe the language is the same on