

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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And even though the administration and I, I presume we're not on friendly terms because I always get these veiled threats from over there about what's going to happen to me, I will overlook that and let those things which seem to be necessary and essential go ahead and be adopted. So all of that is playing into my opposition to what is being attempted by Senator Chris Peterson. However, I think that a study resolution will be just as effective and we will not be creating a new entity at this time. So if she is going to pull this amendment, then I don't have anything else that I'm going to offer on it. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) For further discussion on AM1305, Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would give my time to Senator Peterson because I think we need to work out this issue.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator Redfield. I do want to clarify a few things so that they are on record. And the first issue that I would like to bring up is that there was the suggestion that we do an interim study. I want to make it very clear that we did an interim study this year that was LR 428, where people came in and testified about this. This is where the collection of letters that you see from all around the state came from. The second thing I'd like to say is that there were, I believe, 11 bills that were introduced regarding this topic, and I think that the reason we went forward with this was because the issue is so complicated. The committee chose not to make this a priority. It was not a Speaker's priority as well, but it is and will continue to be a priority with me. The issue of the interim study, I told Senator Bromm and Senator Jones when I introduced this amendment that should it start to carry baggage along with it on LB 704, then I would pull that amendment. But I want to make sure that it is on record that the idea is to go forward with an interim study with the two committees combined to