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LB 594

times the state...the rate at a maximum of 90 cents per mile. That, and I don't know if...we had a chart we were preparing that we could...we're distributing on the floor that would give you an example, showing what that savings would be. It came out of committee with, I believe, no dissenting votes. It was brought to us by the Department of Health and Human Services. And I'm sure, as I have, some of you have heard from constituents when you see people riding, having to take limousines or taxi cabs for appointments outside of their communities and the cost of doing that, and what these people are charging the state in order to perform that service. Like I said, they're charging anywhere from \$1.15 to \$1.80 per mile. You could see that with this bill, we...the current cost would be, on a typical one-provider's rate for 200 miles would be \$280, plus the boarding fee. With our bill it would be \$180. So in that it would be a savings of \$100. It's something that I think that the Department of Health and Human Services certainly hit on an issue that many of us have heard about from our constituents and something that allows some flexibility in servicing the people who need that assistance in getting to their doctors appointments and other issues, other places they may need to get. And, if they do not use one of the services under the direct Public Service Commission, it would also allow for them to pay that...pay some money to a friend or a neighbor. Just makes, I think, very good common sense and saves the state a great deal of money. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. We're discussing the Bohlke amendment, AM1677, to LB 594. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I just stand in support of the Bohlke amendment. I think it...not only does it save the state money, and I was surprised at the number, \$211,000 in General Fund for '99-2000, and \$214,000 in the year 2000 or 20...2000. But anyway, I think it is something that is really long overdue. It's surprising how...that we get ourselves sometimes into boxes and increase the cost to our citizens, to our state. And so I would just urge the body to adopt AM1277. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Further discussion on the Bohlke amendment? Seeing none, Senator