

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

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LB 585, 594

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 585 to E & R for engrossing.

SENATOR COORDSEN: You've heard the motion. Those in favor please say aye; opposed nay. The bill is advanced. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 594, Mr. President. Senator Wehrbein would move to return the bill.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Wehrbein on your motion to return.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I am going to speak briefly on this, I think a couple of others want to speak briefly on this, and I am going to withdraw this amendment. This amendment that I am proposing, though, is somewhat serious. It withdraws the...it would propose to take out Senator Bohlke's amendment that made the 3 times 30 cents issue for mileage for clients of Medicare...Medicaid. And I want to kind of talk on both sides of this, because I...I'm trying to be objective, but I just want the body to recognize the seriousness of this issue, potentially, especially for small-town taxi services. We're limiting the expenditure here for 3 times 30 cents, which is the reimbursement rate at the state level. I do think it's going to be somewhat difficult. I've been convinced that it's going to be difficult for small-town public service...controlled taxi services as we know them. Now, the intent is here to allow neighbors and friends and so forth to take Medicaid clients, I'll call them, for...appointments and things like that. And I understand that, and I think that that ought to be something that can be done. But I...there is an issue, particularly of liability insurance, that I am concerned about. And I've had several meetings, and I know Senator Byars has had probably even more meetings than I have on this issue, and he will speak to this. But the dilemma is, the state will carry the coverage for the amount of liability above what's necessary for those volunteers that are doing this, but I don't think that all carriers of insurance, I don't...I'm not sure that all providers, voluntary providers I'm going to call them, are aware that their own insurance may be in jeopardy if they are being reimbursed for their private use of their car. That is a concern that is not necessarily recognized