

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

February 14, 2000 LB 950

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Byars would move to amend with AM2343. (Legislative Journal page 633.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. We have had a discussion on the amendment, as we were discussing the committee amendments. This is the amendment that requires that by December 1, 2003, each birthing facility shall include a hearing screening test as part of its standard of care for newborns. And it shall establish a mechanism for compliance review. Also at this point, in this amendment, it provides for the coverage for hearing screening tests shall be subject to the typical copayment, coinsurance, deductible dollar limit provisions, to the same extent that other medical service is covered by health insurance plans or such provisions, and it strikes...basically strikes Section 12 on page 8, which takes out the mandated insurance coverage. I would answer any questions, but would move the advancement of the amendment...the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. We're discussing the AM2343 to LB 950. Those wishing to speak are Senator Wehrbein and Senator Jensen. Senator Wehrbein, on the amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. I'd like to ask Senator Byars a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, I will.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: What...this hearing test that they're going to be mandated to have within the hospitals, what does that...is there a machine? What is that...what will that machine cost a typical hospital?

SENATOR BYARS: The estimates we're getting, particularly as this technology gets less and less expensive, we've tried to