

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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LB 953

more...Senator Chambers, your light is on. Seeing no other lights, Senator Vrtiska, you're...did you wish to close on your amendment, AM2578?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, I do. I want to make a couple of comments very quickly. First of all, what Senator Chambers has told you is exactly true, exactly correct. There was no...there was no...there was some discussion on the very thing that Senator Beutler brought up on why should, in fact, the employer be charged, but we made it very clear they wouldn't be charged. And when you're dealing with 40,000 employees who are going to spread this cost over there would seem to be a negligible effect on the entire system. And so nobody has, as Senator Chambers indicated, appeared to oppose this...this type of a program and so, as a result, that's why we brought it to you this way and I would hope that you would advance the committee amendment. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. The question before the body is, shall AM2578 to LB 953 be adopted? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on AM2578 to LB 953. Have you all voted who care to? Have you all voted? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Vrtiska's amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: AM2578 is adopted to LB 953. We're now discussing the advancement of LB 953 to E & R Initial. We're open for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm short, Senator Vrtiska is short. So if I refer to him as the "little fella", I'm also referring to myself--the little fella referring to the little fella. Let me tell you all something else I learned from reading "Congressman" Osborne's statement. He said he had worked with people who came from the lower socioeconomic levels in society and they would have charges brought against them and sometimes be falsely charged, even convicted, because they could not obtain adequate legal counsel. Then he mentioned that there is a public defender's service, maybe he's talking about in Lancaster County, which has