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LB 1234

page 1014.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Stuhr, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I'm offering AM2772 as another idea in our tool box, so to speak, for the promotion of ethanol and protecting our environment. I believe that it could have some very positive effects and yet still maintain personal choice and freedom for consumers and retailers. Under this amendment, a retailer must meet average sales of motor fuel with an alcohol blend requirement. And for sales occurring in calendar year 2001, each retailer sales of ethanol must be 25 percent of their total sales. We're looking at this as an incentive, as a goal that they could reach each year. The following year, in 2002, the retailer sales of ethanol must be 35 percent of their total sales. And then in 2003 and thereafter, they must be 50 percent of their total sales. So what this does is it proposes that a certain percentage of the retailer sales shall be ethanol and then that amount would increase each year. And it would be up to each retailer on how they would meet that...those sales requirements. For example, they could lower the price of the ethanol blend, and that seems to be one of our biggest concerns and one of our biggest challenges is that retailers, even though they are having a lower cost at the wholesale market for purchasing the ethanol to blend, when they put it through their pumps, they are not pricing it competitively. Also, they could step up some of their advertising, and another option is only sell ethanol. I just offer this amendment to you as another idea, and I'll let that up to you to decide, and I believe that this amendment could have some positive effects and yet still maintain some personal choice and freedom for consumers and retailers. Now, Mr. President, I do ask to withdraw this amendment at this time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It is withdrawn.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Connealy. This is AM2762. (Legislative Journal page 1020.)