

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

April 4, 2000

LB 1021

this amendment then those people who have specific areas of that bill, it will become the bill, could then focus on it. We could determine whether there need to be amendments and we could begin to get someplace. One thing I do want to say, and it's a repetition, if somebody has a point of view or a question, raise it. This is the first time I've read through some of the language in the existing law and the law is atrocious. If I were to undertake to rewrite it, I don't know how long it would take me, but I think it could be a lot clearer than it is now. Surplusage could be done away with. I would organize things in a much different way and I wouldn't have so many cross-referrals. But when you piecemeal a law it can become complex and almost unintelligible. If you begin to read it, you think you've got a handle on something and then you come across another part that you feel might have something to do with what you read and you thought you understood, and when you try to put the two together then you do as I did. I have larger fish to fry. I don't have to rewrite all of these reporting laws. We can focus only on what is being undertaken through LB 1021 and I think we ought to try to craft it as carefully as we can, to say what it is that we want to say. And the only thing I'm speaking for now is the adoption of this amendment. There are some proposals that people have offered. I have looked at them and, to be quite frank, I don't completely understand them or how they will plug into the rest of this bill. So you all are going to have to bear with me on this one. I'm going to have to receive some instruction from those who are more versed and better versed in this area of the law than I am. But although my name is on the bill, there's some questions that I will be asking and anybody who would have the answer would be free to suggest it. And I'm hoping that all of us will be able to lay aside the usual understandable unwillingness to seem uninformed on a subject. It will do us no good to work on this bill, advance some form of it, then have lobbyists or others come up to us and say, you shouldn't have done that, you shouldn't have done this, you shouldn't have done the other. If we understand what we did when we reach that point and we believe it is the right thing...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then we can confidently support it. My