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LB 1021

then you're subjecting yourself to a potential criminal penalty. I...Senator Beutler, in spite of the fact that that is the way it has been interpreted by the Accountability and Disclosure Commission in the past, that is news to me, and I would suggest that it is a...it is an impossible standard for us to meet, if it is to be literally enforced. My guess is that it is like other provisions that have come to my attention and that people, myself included, have interpreted the language in a different fashion, and we have gone our way blithely, maybe violating the law, maybe not, but, nonetheless, we have simply gone our way under a different interpretation. To now put in concrete an interpretation that I would personally view as unworkable and impractical is, I'm afraid, something I can't support.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Schimek, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I concur 100 percent with what Senator Wickersham just said. And he raised the issue that this was one of the things that we talked about at length on several different occasions. And unbeknownst to me, I freely admit this, unbeknownst to me in that original committee amendment draft, the words "or gifts" were included, which made aggregating a necessity, and that was never, ever my intention, and I don't believe it was the intention of the committee also. I do think that this would be a very, very difficult interpretation to follow. And I, like Senator Wickersham, also have never been aware of that interpretation, and I would suspect that nobody else on this floor was ever aware of that kind of an interpretation either. It's always been "a gift". That's what it says in the language; that's how I think the ordinary person would interpret it. And so I would encourage us not to do this, and I would encourage us to encourage the Accountability Commission to look at the way they're interpreting "a gift", because I think that would be just a nightmare to follow and to be in accordance with the provisions on. So, that wasn't very good sentence structure, DiAnna. You better sit down. (Laugh) Thanks.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, on the Beutler amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1021.