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February 6, 2003 LB 85

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Redfield. The Chair recognizes Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Engel. Members, appreciate very much Senator Schimek's work on this, but for the record and, Senator Landis, you can correct me if I'm wrong, I do believe that we're speaking here of 100 percent cash-funded agencies. We're not speaking here of any general funds that goes to salaries and support for the department at all. I know, this LB 85, just seems to me to be kind of a carrot stick approach to get people out of the bargaining unit process. If LB 85 is successful, it will, in essences, diminish significantly, if not completely diminish, the capacity of this particular bargaining unit. After having served as a state employee for 12 years in a capacity that's not within the collective bargaining agreement, I can assure you there are rights and privileges afforded bargaining unit employees that are not afforded nonbargaining unit employees. So I'm very reluctant and cannot support LB 85. Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I continue to be a little astounded at the failure of...what I perceive as the failure of the body to distinguish between long-term and short-term necessities. Long-term necessity by summer resolving the problem, definitely. Must be resolved in the month of February, bill must be passed in month of February, not one single person has told us why that must happen, there is no reason why that must happen. There is no accreditation reason, and I find it very difficult to believe that all of a sudden we have moved from the placid robber...water of regulatory stability to the brink of a waterfall. This whole thing is being hyped beyond what's necessary, when we could be looking thoughtfully at the short term, giving labor and the unions their due, their right to go through the normal process, give them a little better respect that they are due, give them the credit for having the imagination and the intelligence to figure out, yes, there is an insurance crisis; yes, there may be a banking crisis before too long. Why do you want to insult them with the insinuation that