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February 19, 2003 LB 13

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek to close.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Brashear, I think your point is well taken, but I don't necessarily agree that that is what candidates for the executive branch would do. After all, if that were the case, why wouldn't you, as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, run with that same thing, that same kind of platform when you're running for reelection to the Legislature? Because after all, you're only about five down right now in the order of succession. I don't know that I think that that would happen any more with the State Auditor than it would with a member of the Legislature. But, I mean, it's conceivable. It could happen. I'm not going to dissuade you from that entirely, or maybe not at all. But the purpose of this bill being brought to you was really to begin the discussion. And I think there are some very good reasons for proceeding with it. I think that we do need a...not only a longer line of succession, which this bill would give us, but also a succession based on executive branch functions. And I would like to reiterate for you that it would...according to the Article IV, Section 16 of the constitution, it would permit the Lieutenant Governor, then the Speaker...and that's one reason I couldn't leave the Speaker out of this bill either...and other persons designated by law who will serve as the Governor's...the remainder of the Governor's term. And then that's when you get to the 84-120 that lists this group of committee chairs who are next in line. And I really don't think that most people have given this too much thought. Certainly, the public doesn't know what the line of succession is. But to me, it makes more sense to have executive branch officers filling in, in that line of succession, and then members of the Legislature. And we would not be left out of that line of succession ultimately. With that, Mr. President, I would just ask that we advance this to E & R Initial if the body so chooses.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the closing on the advancement of LB 13 to E & R Initial. The question before the body is, should LB 13 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on