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SENATOR PREISTER: Then we will be on the bill, and I think then we can move forward. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments offered by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Chairperson of the committee, Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on AM0918. Senator Schimek. (Legislative Journal page 1013.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you. Mr. President and members, it's kind of hard to get focused on something this important and maybe this technical on a Monday morning after a nice weekend. But here we are, and we need to do it. I'd like to begin by thanking all the people who have been working on this project. And that would include the LR 399 task force, as well as Senator Preister and his office, because a lot of work has gone into this. I'd also like to thank the administration, and particularly Lori McClurg and Lauren Hill. I'm going to introduce the committee amendment, and then I'm probably going to ask you...or not probably, I am going to ask you to vote it down when we get to the vote on it. And there are several reasons for that, which I will discuss after I have explained the committee amendment, and after maybe we've answered some of the questions that you might have. But the white copy...the committee amendment actually becomes the bill. And it provides for a number of things. And I'll try to go through those briefly. I had a longer explanation, but I'm going to do the brief explanation, and then if you want more detail, we can get into that. But the bill then, as written, would require that state agencies may enter into service contracts valued at \$50,000 or more only if the service is, one, required by state or federal law or rule or regulation; two, if it's specialized or not needed regularly enough to warrant permanent staff; three, necessary for workload management, such as a temporary workload increase or in an emergency or; four, more cost-effective provided by contract. An agency director, under this amendment, would apply to materiel division for approval to contract when a services contract is estimated to be valued at \$50,000 or more. Now, this differs from the green copy, which provided for a prereview. And this, frankly, is the major