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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SMITH: ...we have 51,000 motorcycle licensees out there. The estimated graduates is already 5,000. That brings us down to 46,000. Estimated number who will wear helmets, this is a DMV estimate, 18,400. Estimated number who will need the course, which is 27,600, multiplied by the \$75 subsidy per course that has been current practice for quite some time now, that would be a potential subsidy outlay of 2...almost \$2.1 million.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR SMITH: So that would be probably a worst case scenario, but this amendment takes a fiscally neutral bill and makes it non-fiscal neutral. I mean it...very costly.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, Senator, I think at this point in time it would be maybe foolish to pursue this particular amendment without having a better idea of what...without having an opportunity to study this fiscal note a little bit more. So I'm sure that if it were placed on the bill and the fiscal note is entirely accurate, it would probably kill the bill (laugh), so I guess I would prefer to see people vote the bill up or down, based on whether they think the bill is a good idea or not. I'm going to withdraw the amendment at this time, but I'm not sure that I'm going to not pursue it again. And if you'd like to respond, that would be fine.

SENATOR SMITH: For the sake of accuracy too, I do want to add that that \$2.1 million potential subsidy outlay, if you broke that down on a speculative five-year amortization, so to speak, then it would bring it down to approximately half a million dollars a year.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. I appreciate that. And with that, Mr. President, I would ask to withdraw the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next item to the bill.

CLERK:            Senator Beutler, AM1238.            (Legislative Journal page 1202.)