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spending \$1 billion a year, and \$1 billion a year, as you and I both know, is a sizeable chunk of money. And so with that, there's potential for savings that would fully offset any fiscal note that we do come up with, but at this time, because the actual amendment hasn't been introduced and approved, Fiscal didn't come up with a request... a revised fiscal note. If this is adopted then they will have a revised fiscal note. We will see what the administration has. I think even that may be able to be adjusted with the cost savings, but at this time we have no way of knowing how much we're going to identify in savings that would be offsetting. That's a long response. I hope that was okay.

SENATOR FRIEND: No, that helped a lot. As a matter of fact, I wanted an education and you just gave it to me. I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Preister, if he chooses; if not, back to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend and Senator Preister. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Preister amendment, Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, I'm being hassled by the Chair of the Appropriations Committee, so I apologize. I also rise with some questions about AM1421, specifically page 5, subsection (e) It deals with what Senator Byars talked about. It also deals with some of the questions that Senator Quandahl talked about. And I do admire what Senator Preister and Senator Beutler, Senator Schimek have been trying to accomplish over the interim, working on this issue. I think this is an issue that has come to light, makes a lot of sense. I do think, though, that when we do this it needs to be responsible and done correctly, and I think Senator Preister is committed to that. The specific reasons why I think there needs to be some clarification in that area is because we potentially could be doing some damage to specific areas that deal with individuals, such as our state wards and the care that they receive and the type of system that we're trying to create, because a lot of these contracts get to a specific project. We're trying to accomplish a specific goal and I think there are some areas in here that are currently