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LB 806

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, in order not to get into a position of having to rearrange my papers in mid-presentation, I try to write it all down inside my head. This is an amendment which is designed to deal with a problem that surfaced. We were given various claims by county attorneys for work they had done on the ALR, that administrative license revocation. Everybody who submits a claim that they want to be paid will give documentation for that claim to show that we ought to pay it. When there have been suits lost by the state, the Attorney General's Office would say, this claim is to be paid. The court has said that the litigant has won. But we would get all of the paperwork. We had county attorneys who would just put in a claim and say, case number one, \$500; case number two, \$500. Over a period of time, dating back to last session, these county attorneys were notified that if they did not give documentation, meaning the number of hours that they worked and how they billed, the claim was not going to be paid. We are a separate branch of government as a Legislature. We control the purse strings. And even if a judge says, do it this way, we are going to be fiscally responsible and we are going to have documentation for any claim that we pay. Even as members of this Legislature, if we take a trip or do anything for which we're reimbursed, we cannot just write a note and say, I'm Senator so-and-so, I did this, and it cost so much and so much; give me the money. No, you have to document, or you're not going to get reimbursed. Many of the county attorneys, most of them, in fact, did document. Every county attorney who gave us the documentation is included in this package that I'm offering as an amendment to be reimbursed, or to have the claim paid. I did not look...and I was the most critical. I did not look at the number of hours, how they billed per hour, or anything like that. All that we had demanded as a committee was that they give us this documentation, and not just a flat number of dollars. So what you have before you is a listing of every county attorney, and the amount of his or her claim which will be paid as a result of this amendment. I don't know of anything else to say to make it clearer. So that is what this amendment consists of. And it will come to a total of \$19,000, or