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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR VRTISKA: I just rose in order to say that I want to agree with Senator Chambers' amendment, because I think it takes care of something that we've been bothered with, and that's taking care of those people who have claims. And by the way, some of those claims are carried over from last year, because we were having a difficult time justifying. And we have since been furnished all of the hours that were provided by those attorneys, the time that they spent. And so the committee has decided those claims should be paid, some of them for last year, some of them for this year. And so therefore, I'm supporting Senator Chambers' amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. The reference has been made to Lincoln County. And there are a substantial number of claims that were claimed last year in connection with Lincoln County. I think that the amount of these various claims is something in excess of \$18,000. Now, the committee has requested that certain documentation be submitted to it. So how did the \$18,000 occur? We go back to the statute that sets up this administrative law ruling. And that is 23-1201, which says that the county attorney may be directed by the Attorney General to represent the state in these matters. And the law goes on to say that the county attorney shall be paid for legal services in connection with this. Individual county attorneys, in the case of Winter v. Department of Motor Vehicles, county attorneys cannot refuse to represent the Attorney General in these matters. So what we have is, in Lincoln County, we have two judges who have set ground rules on how the compensation shall be made to the county attorney for representation in these matters. They set a fee of \$500 per instance. The county attorney has been notified by me...because I found yesterday that the committee was not going to go along with the documentation that was submitted by the Lincoln County attorney. And the reason that the documentation requested was not submitted as requested by the committee, is that that was not the criteria by which the claim of the county attorney was submitted to the district judge. The district judge makes a determination as to what fee is going to