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LB 17

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Mr. President. Senator Preister, thank you for asking the question, because this...these are criminal justice bills. Because they carry penalties they are, in the opinion of the committee and in my own personal opinion, an appropriate combination. They are dealing with criminal justice and the sanctions imposed for violations and so they don't require a severability clause. I take the comment as being somewhat humorous.

SENATOR PREISTER: Well, thank you. My humor is sometimes dry, and I'm glad that you've appreciated it.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: At least you have one.

SENATOR PREISTER: (Laugh) Thank you, Senator Brashear. I support the process, although there are lots of bills. I think I heard everything thrown in except the partridge and the pear tree. But these are bills that all do important things. The elemental mercury is a problem in the environment, just taking one of them out. We have 12 advisories, 12 water bodies in the state that have mercury in them, and we have to tell people to limit their fish consumption from those water bodies because of the amount of mercury that are in the fish and in the seafood, the waterfowl in those water bodies. That, as well as the underlying bill and the various components, are important pieces of legislation. When we get to this late stage in our process, this is an important way to be able to move some things that are important to get done. Yes, it raises questions, like Senator Redfield did, but I support the process and, in this case, I support each of the underlying bills that have been combined in the committee amendment, and I support them being amended onto LB 17, and then will support LB 17 as well. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Hartnett, on the committee amendments. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support the committee amendment because it contains a bill which I think a lot of people are in prison because of alcohol and substance abuse, and it simply allows them, some, able to get