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likewise, looked at the provisions, which seemed even more comparable, relating to Fraudulent Insurance Act claims; that is, the same sort of fraud except here in the insurance area, and those provisions were structured exactly as the theft provisions were, so that you have two comparisons here, one in the fraud area and one in the theft area, that have similar structure for similar dollar amounts; that is, if it's over \$1,500, it's a Class III felony, if it's less than \$1,500 but \$500 or more, it's a Class IV felony. So all I did was to make certain changes in the penalty provision of this bill so that the penalty structure in this bill is exactly the same as that for theft and exactly the same as that for fraudulent...for the Fraudulent Insurance Act. And the result of that is to increase the penalties by one degree, in a sense. So it has that effect, but the main thing I was looking for is making it parallel to and the same as other criminal provisions that seem to pertain to the same kinds of violation and the same dollar amount of false claims or theft. So I would recommend that to you for one change in this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. And I briefly looked at Senator Beutler's amendment. He intended it to be a friendly amendment and so we're going to review it and take it on its face at that time. To answer a previous question, throughout the course of the last year, I had been in discussion with different people about are we ensuring that those who are receiving Medicaid are those who are qualified, but, more importantly, are we making sure that those who are providing the services are providing the services that are appropriate and done according to state law. And after discussions with different individuals, I led my discussion through to the Attorney General's Office, and they had been working with the Department of Health and Human Services on a similar issue, and it is my understanding that it is through the department that this language was drafted. It was modeled after federal law...or it was modeled after a model act which a majority of the other states do. As I mentioned earlier, 48 states have Medicaid Fraud Control Units, including the District of Columbia. And so the provisions that you're going