March 24, 2004   LB 1049

CLERK: Senator Beutler would offer AM2814, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal page 782.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, to open on your amendment to LB 1049.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Senator Cunningham, this is your bill, and it's been quite a while since we've been on it.   I would yield to you a few minutes of my time, since I have plenty to explain my amendment, if you'd like to refresh the memory of the group on what it is you're doing. I think that would be helpful.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, thank you, Senator Beutler, Senator Cudaback, and members.   Basically, this bill is really quite simple. All it does, it's in unemployment law, and it changes the waiting period when someone quits their job without good cause or is fired for misconduct. In current law, there's a 7- to 10-week waiting period. And very basically, all this does is changes it to a 13-week waiting period. And it saves the Unemployment Trust Fund about $4.5 million a year the first year, and a little more than that the second year, close to a $10 million savings over a two-year period. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham.   Senator Beutler, you still have 8.5 minutes left.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.   Let me indicate what the amendment does. AM2814 essentially has three parts to it.   Under the current law, as you will see on page 2 of the bill, an individual is disqualified for benefits for a period of not less than 7 or more than 10 weeks under the current law.   That's if they leave without good cause. This is the without good cause section.   So with regard to that section, what my amendment would do would be to restore the current language, so that 7 to 10 weeks is what would continue to be the rule, rather than Senator Cunningham's suggested change.   Then over in another section of the bill, the same kind of disqualification is