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FLOOR DEBATE

April 5, 2004            LB 391

of majority with reference to that subject. And it may--that same subject, I'm talking about--be referred throughout the statutes, and there would simply be a cross-referral to those other sections of statute that deal with this same subject, where we agreed the age of majority should change. That is not what the committee amendment does. It deals with discrete, free-standing, substantive issues, and as such, I am going to have to oppose it. And I hope that we don't forget the nature of the amendment that we are discussing here, that Senator Erdman has offered. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Tyson. Senator Smith, on AM3496.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Erdman.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman, you have almost five minutes.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Thank you, Senator Smith, for your time. I do appreciate it. I don't know that it's humanly possible to bring us back from where some of you have gone. And let me try. The age of gambling does not change, Senator Jensen, under the committee amendment. That was not included. The issue of contracting is, again, not the sole reason for LB 391. Most of you have access to the Chamber Viewer on your desks. If you go up to the Ninety-Seventh Legislative Session, which was two years ago, you can pull up LB 983. LB 983 said that a minor may not disaffirm a contract unless otherwise valid to pay the reasonable value of things necessary for his or her support. That was three years ago. This bill was not designed only for contracts. I will say it again, this bill was not designed to do it. The way that this bill accomplishes that goal is...Senator Beutler is correct. If you amend the statute which refers the age of majority, you lower that to 18, it allows 18-year-olds to contract. Now the difference between doing that, Senator Stuthman, and doing LB 983 is, if you pass LB 983, it's a minor. Is that a 12-year-old? It is. So we can do one or two things. I'm open to the body on the issue of contracting. We felt that it was more responsible approach to