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FLOOR DEBATE

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the Legislature from using public resources consistent with this section for the purpose of researching or campaigning for or against a ballot issue if the employee is under the direction and supervision of a member the Legislature. So one of the things that was very problematic in terms of last summer and fall and dealing with the ballot question, staff was very skittish, and rightfully so, about what they could or should be doing, and this makes clear that if the senator can do it and if the employee is under the direction and supervision of a senator then they are protected too. So those are the three changes and, with that, I'm going to stop and recommend this amendment to you as an addition to LB 242. Oh, I might also mention that this amendment changes completely Section 44, which was already in the bill, and there was some minor policy change in 44 which everybody seemed to agree could be stricken, and so that is stricken which...and the effect of what that did was to tighten down, again, on the rules, probably to an extent that's more than everybody would agree to, so that, with the okay of the Accountability Commission, that particular provision which they consider not relatively important at all, is being stricken and replaced then with this material that I've just described to you. So that's the description of the matter, absent or without the inclusion of Senator Mines'. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Beutler amendment, Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Jensen. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand in support of the Beutler amendment, AM0779, and as I think Senator Beutler noted, there was some discussion of this during last fall's election, and we actually had several conversations with the Accountability Commission. We also went back and looked at the record that was established on the vote on a bill, the debate and vote on a bill, several years ago dealing with this very topic, and at that time I think Senator Beutler very clearly stated that some of the provisions in what he's doing now were what he intended with that bill. So we felt that it was what the Legislature intended all along but had never been put in statute. I might indicate to you that this did advance to General File with a committee amendment that just said that