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FLOOR DEBATE

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up-front with finance dollars and passes the cost on to the property owner. As with everything else these days, construction costs increasing, and cities are finding a need to spread these costs over a longer period of time. Right now, state law gives four to ten years for this financial process. This bill would extend the repayment period to a maximum of 20 years. This bill would affect the repayment of special assessments for curbs and guttering, sewer mains and water mains, sewer and water improvements, water service district bonds. The committee amendment changes the repayment period for the property owner to the equal length of the city financing. If the improvements are made without financing, the repayment period is at the discretion of the governing body, such as the city council, subject to a fair and reasonable requirement. Senator Friend, as Chair of the committee, will address that amendment. This bill has been introduced four times in varying forms. Thanks to the committee, this year it has prioritization. The committee unanimously voted to place the bill on General File. I'd like to thank the committee members and the staff, Bill Stadtwald, for his work on this bill. I ask for your support of this bill and your vote to move it to Select File. I'd yield the rest of my time to Senator Friend, if he would like to address the committee amendments with it. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Friend, you're recognized.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Madam President. How much time does Senator Aguilar have left?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Eight minutes.

SENATOR FRIEND: Then I will use that time. Thank you. Members of the Legislature, AM0318 to LB 161, Senator Aguilar's bill, what the committee did, we proposed...the language of the bill is technically unexceptionable and the committee determined that some clarification and further...excuse me. I was interrupted. (Laughter) Further explanation, probably in order to avoid further problems, was necessary, the committee discovered. While the provision of the...calls for the adoption of an ordinance to create the special assessment district for trees