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LB 272, 709

previous bill is LB 272. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Erdman, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, I'm going to rise in support of Senator Beutler's amendment. I do--and I have discussed this with Senator Beutler--I think that we'll have a technical correction that will need to be done. Essentially, we would have two findings sections, both Section 2 and Section 3, the way that his amendment is drafted. But I think we can resolve that. I think what...I know what my intent is. And my intent is that this is a balanced approach, that this is an idea that, the way that this is drafted reflects the ultimate goal, and that is that we look at the system, to the benefit that it has provided, we look at the future obstacles and the future opportunities that need to be available to the system, and that we figure out a way to accomplish that. Obviously, legislative intent is important to outline what we think or what we have found as far as the facts that are occurring at that exact date. The discussion that Senator Beutler had earlier on the committee amendment, in Section 2, line 14, about whether the system has become financially unsustainable, or whether it is financially unsustainable, or whether it will become financially unsustainable, I think is irrelevant. I think the reality is, is that we know it's going to be a problem. When you look at the information that is presented to us, and we look at the decisions that we have had to make in response, they haven't been well thought out at the time. They may have been the best thing that we could have done at the opportunity that was presented. But again, look to the information that's handed out. By 2013-2014, we cannot continue to grow these two portions of the state budget at the rate that they're going and be able to afford it, without cutting state agencies. Now, I'll add this. When I say state agencies, I include the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Kearney, the whole system, the community college system, the state college system. It's beyond just agencies and bureaucrats that sit in Lincoln or sit in offices throughout the state. And so we look at the numbers. And we can discuss whether it will be financially