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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2005      LB 82

this...now in AM1139, increases that to 150 feet. The problem we were getting into is, these trucks were having an axle weight problem, so they want some triple-axle tow trucks. Some of them are 50 to 60 feet long themselves. They're very large tow trucks. And they were being issued tickets for towing these disabled vehicles off the Interstate. So that's one part of the amendment. Another part of it is dealing with how far they can tow these combination vehicles that length. And there was always the perception that they needed to tow the entire unit, say, back to a repair shop, which...sometimes they'd go past a so-called secure safekeeping facility. This states what a safekeeping facility is. It says, a secure safekeeping means a place off the traveled portion of the highway that can accommodate the parking of such vehicles in order for the vehicles to be repaired or dismantled and operated in separate units. So we clarified that. We've worked with the Department of Roads and, obviously, the Carrier Enforcement division of the State Patrol on this. We've clarified that. And as Senator Beutler said, the rest of it is dealing with lien and notification. It used to be, in current statute, that the tow company had 180 days to...I'm sorry, had 90...I got to get this straight. They had 180 days in which time to file a lien, and now it's down to 90. Part of the problem we had was, these lots were being filled with vehicles that really had not much value to them. And their storage fees were accumulating to where nobody would redeem the vehicles, just because of the cost of the storage and so on. So we've narrowed down the window that the tow companies have to get the notification out, and so on, and simply cleaned up the process to where we think it's a much more workable situation. And as Senator Beutler explained, his part of the amendment is dealing with the foreclosure of those liens and the proceeds and how those all go together. With that, I'd be glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. You've heard the opening on AM1139, by Senator Beutler and Senator Baker. Open for discussion on that amendment to LB 82. Senator Beutler or Baker, there are no lights on. You waive closing. The question before the body is, shall AM1139 be adopted to LB 82? All in favor vote aye; those opposed, nay. The question before the body is the Beutler-Baker amendment, AM1139. Have you all voted