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FLOOR DEBATE

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this discussion on the floor it was pointed out and acknowledged that it could have the effect of permanently lowering the worker's benefit to something lower than what it was before this bill came about and before the whole reform movement came before you. So what we've agreed to is that, yes, for a period of years the benefits may be lower by virtue of allowing for a period of time the \$10 alternative calculation to be in the bill, but in the year 2011 it would go back to the standard calculation that was in effect before Senator Cunningham came forward with his bill. We would go back to that calculation which then would stay in place permanently. And the whole idea is, yes, the workers are going to accept part of the burden of making this system right and the way that will be done is by a temporary reduction in benefits for a period of time. It could be as much as six years. But at that end of time, without further action by the Legislature, the benefit calculation will revert back to that which existed before this bill was filed, so that the workers suffer no permanent disadvantage by virtue of participating in this major corrective action on the system. I think that's as good an explanation as I can give on it. And, Senator Cunningham, did you want me to yield time to you for further comment on the amendment? If Senator Cunningham would like the remainder of the time, I would gladly yield it to him.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Senator Cunningham, there's about seven minutes left.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members, and thank you, Senator Beutler. I just want to stand up and say I appreciate you sitting down and working with me on this and I did, as you recall, agree with you on the floor in first-round debate that in a period of years out that it could be a problem the way the bill was worded, and I thought we needed to do something at that time. I just wasn't sure quite what that was. But I do fully support this amendment, and thank you for your time, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Heard the opening on AM1159. Open for discussion. Senator Beutler, there are no lights on. Senator Beutler waives closing. The question before the body is adoption of the Beutler amendment, AM1159, to