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LB 422

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'd be glad to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Pederson, I see on the gadget that all of the original sections are stricken, and the committee amendment becomes the bill. It was probably felt that that would be the most...the clearest way to handle what is being done by the committee with this bill?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: That's correct. We felt that if we just amended in, and strike this, add this, that it would be terribly confusing on the floor for the members of the Legislature.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So could you tell me briefly what the adjustments were?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Primarily, the area of adjustment was in the healthcare insurance of the various officers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Were they given more in the way of insurance coverage, or less?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'm sure that they didn't give...we didn't give them any more coverage. I think what happened is that the initial estimate of what the cost would be for health insurance which is provided is greater than what had originally been proposed. So we made the adjustment accordingly. Actually, they're rather minor changes, in this case.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The adjustment, then, was downward from what had originally been in the bill?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: No, I think we increased the amount of insurance...not the coverage, but the cost of the insurance. As everyone knows, all the insurance costs for health purposes have gone up.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So who's paying this cost? The employees