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LB 425

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'm not aware at this time of any obligation that's a statutory obligation that the state did not fund. Are you?

SENATOR BOURNE: And I agree with you, Senator Pederson. I've looked and I've looked and I can't find it either. And I was baffled. I remember reading your letter that you sent out a couple of years ago, and quite honestly I read it and I was impressed, as I usually am, by your work. And for the life of me, I don't understand why we haven't funded this. And I guess what I'm going to do is stand with Senator Stuthman and hopefully other people will recognize that this is wrong. We shouldn't...I argued yesterday on the claims bill that we had an obligation to make a payment...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...and we should have made that. And in that situation we did. I think in this case we had a bill that passed, it had a hearing. It came out of the committee, obviously. I don't know how many votes it had out of the committee. It was on General File. It was argued on General File. It must have had a majority of the legislators approve it on General File. It obviously went on to Select File. A majority there approved it. It went on to Final Reading, had a majority of the legislators there approve it. The Governor obviously signed it, and that's law. And we have, in my opinion, ignored a statutory obligation and refused to fund this. I don't think that's right. Actually, I wish a county would sue. Of course, that would take money to do that and time and create some ill will between that county and the state, and so I understand why they don't sue. But I do not understand why we don't honor this commitment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Bourne and Stuthman. Senator Kopplin, your light is next.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I'm going to support this amendment, not because it makes a great deal of effect. The state pays counties about \$35 a day