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LB 614

they would be willing to add any additional information to this issue. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pahls. There are committee amendments, as stated by the Clerk. Chairman Pederson, you're recognized to open on those amendments.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Have a very simple amendment, and what it does is strikes Section 3 of the bill and renumber the remaining sections accordingly. Section 3 provided simply for an appropriation of certain monies for this project, but this bill is going to be followed by an A bill, as Senator Pahls has alluded, and so we'll expect that that will take place. But in the meantime, there's no reason to have Section 3 in this particular bill now. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. You've heard the opening on AM0997, offered by the Appropriations Committee to LB 614. Open for discussion. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I truly do hate to pick on a freshman senator's bill, but I at least want to have a chance to discuss this issue on the floor, because I think there may be repercussions that we're not thinking about. And let me say up-front, at first, that I believe that these electrical inspectors are underpaid. They are paid less than the journeymen that they supervise, and I do believe that they need to be paid better. The problem is in finding a way to pay them that doesn't interfere with collective bargaining processes and that doesn't cause an unintended consequence, and I think this bill causes an unintended consequence. And I could be wrong and I'd be willing to listen to the discussion on it, but what this bill does is gives the Electrical Board the power to change these salaries, to change the starting salaries, and that makes me very nervous because I believe that there are other collective bargaining units that have people in them that will be wanting to then come to us, as a Legislature, and to actually, in a sense, interfere with that collective bargaining process or make it not that important anymore. And I believe things start crumbling apart if we do this. I would like to give you just a little bit of history