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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 12

the ballot. So it's going to be close to \$20,000 next year. We have to think about it prospectively. If we have to come back, say, 20 years into the future, we have to think about it prospectively, or we're never ever going to keep up with the rate of inflation. I don't have a real problem with Senator Smith's amendment, except, in a way, it's kind of demeaning to the Legislature to say that, you know, we're asking for the poverty guideline to be used, in a sense. We do work hard, and we do have to have certain skills. And I think that's not to disparage anybody who might be in poverty, because many of them work hard and just had some terrible, horrible breaks in life. But I would like to see us set this salary at a...at a point where we can at least help recruit some new candidates to run for office several years down the road. So with that, I'll be listening. I'm trying to think to myself, what happens if we adopt Senator Smith's amendment? Then what happens after that if we adopt Senator Redfield's amendment, and then after that we adopt Senator Jensen's amendment, and then after that we adopt Senator Beutler's amendment? What happens when we've gone through all of these? Then where do we go back to? I want you all to think about. We do need...we do need 30 votes if we're going to put it on the general election...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...ballot; we do need 40 votes if we're going to put it on the spring ballot. LR 12CA had 31 votes on General File, and there were...that wasn't a call of the house and there were a number of people who were present and not voting, excused and not voting. In going around to people afterwards, I think we're very close, if not over the line, on the 40 votes necessary at the \$24,000. Whether that will still remain true after this discussion, when we considered all the options, we'll just have to see, but I do feel fairly confident that we can put that on the ballot without a lot of sweat. Getting it on the spring ballot might be a little harder, but I think that we can do that, too. So thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Smith, on your amendment. Senator Smith waives his opportunity. Senator Landis, you're recognized to speak when you get to your