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FLOOR DEBATE

May 24, 2005

LB 13, 484

SENATOR CUDABACK: Discussion on advancement of LB 484? Seeing no lights on, Senator Cunningham, you're recognized to close on advancement. Senator Cunningham waives closing. The question before the body is, shall LB 484 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. We're voting on advancement of LB 484 to E & R Initial. Have you all voted? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 484.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 484 does advance. We now go to LB 13.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 13 was a bill originally introduced by Senator Landis. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 6, referred to the Business and Labor Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM0761, Legislative Journal page 999.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Landis, to open on LB 13.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. LB 13 was one of two bills brought to me by the Workers' Compensation Court before the advent of this session. This was a group I've worked with in the past on several other pieces of legislation, and since it carried out some of those pieces of legislation, they came to me on this subject to see if we could agree as to what direction they wanted to take. And I had absolute agreement with the court as to what direction they wanted to go. LB 13, one of these two measures, simply tries to clarify and separate administrative functions from judicial functions inside the Workers' Compensation Court. It's a very unique hybrid case, the court is, because it accomplishes some judicial ends but, at the same time, it runs administratively a number of functions. So what the court has done is that they have chosen an administrator, and that administrator has been doing a lot of administrative functions of the court, and yet, the statutes don't refer to this administrator who has sprung up over time to help the court solve its problem. It wants to