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LB 343

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Brown, your light is next.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Madam President. I echo some of what Senator Wehrbein said. I would take...I certainly thank the people that worked on the SCAN board and I think that their work was not for naught (laugh) because I think that even though we are going in a different direction the principles, in terms of the interoperability and making sure that what we do eventually yields a statewide system. I think that the truth was that the...well, there was a variety of numbers, but somewhere between \$60 million and \$160 million to do the statewide system just wasn't ever there in a lump sum amount. And by virtue of some of the federal money, we were able to develop a plan that is going to get us to, eventually, to a statewide system. And the critical piece of this, of the amendment, AM0648, and I support the pending amendment, the technical amendment, but most importantly the Transportation Committee's amendment, is that it requires a plan for interoperability to the grants that are being received on a regional basis, and if we do nothing else, that's the piece that we absolutely have to do. But I would echo the part of what Senator Wehrbein said about thanking the individuals who worked on the plan, because even though the plan didn't end up exactly that way, their work helped inform the position that we are in where I really am hopeful for maybe the first time that we're going to end up with a statewide system. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Mines, your light is next, followed by Senators Johnson, Preister, and Baker. You're recognized.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Colleagues, I take a bit of a different approach on this bill, LB 343. Have no doubt that the amendment will pass and that the bill will advance, as well. And my comments, for the record, are maybe a little bit more pointed and poignant. This whole SCAN event was a football fumbled over, and over, and over. SCAN was politicized, SCAN was ignored, and then, frankly, SCAN was given a black mark