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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 373

identification of the authorizing statute or legislative bill. It will also include a description, including a quantification of the fiscal impact on state agencies, political subdivisions and regulated persons. The committee amendment harmonizes this language with other provisions in the Administrative Procedures Act. Finally, the amendment allows any member of the Legislature who feels aggrieved by the amendment, rule, or regulation to file a complaint with the Chair of the Executive Board, and this is a change from the original bill, which allowed any person who felt aggrieved to file a complaint. That person would now have to go through their own member of the Legislature. With that, that, Mr. Chairman, I would urge adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening. Mr. Clerk, a motion, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Fischer would move to amend the committee amendments with AM0984. (Legislative Journal page 1039.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Fischer, to open on your amendment to the committee amendments to LB 373.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'd like to thank Senator Bourne for introducing this bill. I believe it's a very important bill and, with a few of the minor changes that we've proposed in it with this amendment, it can make a big difference in the body of law that has very little oversight currently. I'm sure you've all heard the phrase that the agencies are the fourth branch of government. There is more than some truth to this statement. Agencies have tremendous power when it comes to adopting and amending rules and regulations that have a huge impact on the average citizen. The problem with these rules and regs is that there are not enough checks on the agencies' power in the adoption process. I understand that the Governor's Office must approve the rule, that the Attorney General must okay its constitutionality and statutory authority, and that the Secretary of State must certify its form, but what about the underlying policy of law? How does the Governor know what that is supposed to be? Who