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LB 62, 116, 322, 444

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. You've heard the opening. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments. Chairman Bourne, you're recognized to open on the Judiciary Committee amendments.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, the committee amendment to LB 116, as the Judiciary Committee does from time to time, includes the following legislative bills, as advanced by the committee: LB 444, LB 322, and LB 62. These...all of these bills were advanced to the floor without opposition. LB 116, as not amended by the committee amendment, the bill as introduced, authorizes a court to sanction an employer for failing to remit child support payments after receiving notice of its obligation to do so. LB 444, introduced by Senator Jensen, allows the state disbursement unit for child support to collect a fee equal to the cost of processing bad checks or returned debit transactions for child support, and requires notice of such invalid payments to be sent to HHS so that the payment is not incorrectly credited to the account. The bill would allow the SDU to require another form of payment from individuals who bounce a check or have a return debit transaction for child support for which the SDU incurs charges. Current law allows the SDU to require payment in cash or similar guaranteed method of payment only if the payor had made two return payments within one calendar year. That was the green copy of LB 444. The committee elected to change that, and the changes reflected in the committee amendment are that the committee amendment strikes Section 1 of the bill, which required changes to the CHARTS computer system, and eliminates the \$936,000 fiscal note. The amendment also reinstates current law pertaining to insufficient payments, which allows HHS to require another form of payment after receiving two insufficient fund checks within one year. So it goes back to what our current statute is, two insufficient checks within one year, rather than one. Lastly, the committee amendment clarifies the term "insufficient funds" to mean payments resulting in returned check charges or charges for electronic payments not accepted, and inserts "money order, cashier's check, or certified check" in place of "cash, guaranteed funds, or wire funds transfer," in Section 43-3342.03. The committee amendment also includes a bill, LB 322 introduced by Senator Schimek, which modifies