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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 709

with that, I understand you want to withdraw AM1323, Senator, and offer AM1361. Is that right?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Any objection? Seeing no objection, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Synowiecki would move to return LB 709 to Select File for specific amendment, AM1361. (Legislative Journal pages 1859-1860.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Synowiecki, you're recognized to open to return for a specific amendment.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, both on General File, on Select File we have had amendments introduced, had quite a bit of discussion relative to the underlying concepts embodied in LB 709 and the need to have some element of the private sector insurance and private employers relative to public expenditures under Medicaid. There are several states throughout the Union that have done some bold and innovative undertakings relative to some of the larger employers within their states, kind of outsourcing the medical insurance aspect of the employment, and there's many of us on the floor that thought that this would have...should have been, and I think the bill's sponsor agrees that this is an important aspect that needs to be carefully studied. However, however, the huge obstacle that we have confronted in generating this critical data to identify those larger employers within the state and so that we can develop some sound public policy relative to this issue is the cost associated with amending the Health and Human Services N-FOCUS computer system. As it related to the original amendment that was filed, AM1323, let me read you some of the notes. The fiscal note was in excess of \$100,000 over the two-year period, and I'll just read you from the narrative. The cost of developing the initial computer file to send to Revenue, that is the Department of Revenue, is estimated to be \$56,000. Because of the changeable nature of employment of the Medicaid population, the fluctuation of incomes caused by hourly and seasonal work, a monthly process