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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 709

will be created. The computer-related cost of creating and transmitting the "feeder file" to the Department of Revenue is estimated to be \$24,000, or \$2,000 per month. Revenue will add the required data to the feeder file and send it back to HHS. HHS will load the data back into the system and determine the count of spouses and dependents. This is estimated to cost an additional \$24,000. So an overwhelming cost relative to the fiscal note associated with this undertaking was related to the interfacing of Department of Health and Human Services to Department of Revenue. Now then came this substitute amendment embodied within AM1361, which essentially took away, or subtracted, all the interfacing between Health and Human Services and the Department of Revenue. So conceivably then there would be little to no cost so that this data, in terms of identifying the employers that perhaps are abusing the public healthcare system, can be identified and that so we can develop sound public policy. But now the department is indicating that even with this amended version of this undertaking that the costs would still be substantial as far as the in-house capabilities of Health and Human Services to simply identify those that are eligible for Medicaid, that have applied for Medicaid and already have to self-report their employer if there is such an employer, or their spouse's employer. It's already a requirement that they submit this information. To simply gather this information from already existing data banks would be a cost in excess of, I believe, \$150,000. So as a result of these income (inaudible) and as result of this bureaucratic barriers that we're confronted with, leaves me with no choice but to withdraw the amendment and hopefully we can continue to work on this, but hopefully can be within the existing language within LB 709. This can be a centerpiece of the study in...or one of the centerpieces of the study, and that is to, as other states have done, to analyze the "off-shifting" of some of our larger employers to the public health system for the health insurance benefits to the workers and their families. So with that, Senator Cudaback, I would ask to withdraw the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next motion, please.