

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 9, 2006 LB 312, 542

others. (Read title.) Introduced on January 14 of last year, referred to Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are committee amendments, as well as other amendments pending to the bill. Bill was discussed on May 3, Mr. President. (AM0932, Legislative Journal page 1003, First Session, 2005.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Burling, to open.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, colleagues, welcome to 2006. I was glad to see we all survived 2005. And may you get, in 2006, all the rain and sunshine you need, and may the wind always be to your back. So we'll see how we start out here this morning. LB 542, thank you very much for the opportunity to provide a recap on this. It was introduced last year and heard by the Revenue Committee. What LB 542 does, to refresh your memory, it creates the Policy Review Commission. As it was introduced, it contained approximately 30 people and had a cost of \$200,000. At the hearing that the Revenue Committee held, there were several proponents and no opponents. The committee reduced the membership from 30 to 15, reduced the fiscal cost from \$200,000 to \$100,000, and then voted it out of committee on a vote of 7 to 0. And in light of the fact that the committee had such a full plate last year with, you know, like LB 312 and all the related legislation to that, I appreciate their advancing this bill out of committee for our consideration. It was discussed a couple of times last year on General File, and during that discussion AM1099 was approved by this body. AM1099 called for the committee makeup of eight senators appointed by the Executive Board; and seven private citizens, representing various stakeholder groups, to be appointed by the Governor. And it also charged the group to include examining the previous studies as part of their research. The next amendment, which was approved, was Senator Beutler's AM1228. This amendment added two more senators, added a low-income sector representative, a labor interest representative, all appointed by the Executive Board. That brought the membership of the commission back up to 19. The next amendment to be considered was Senator Jensen's AM1448. That would add a member of the health sector on this commission.