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February 22, 2006 LB 771, 941

Schimek. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 941 does advance. We now go to LB 771.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 771, introduced by Senator Friend (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 4 of this year, referred to the Government Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments attached. (AM2115, Legislative Journal page 564.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Friend, you're recognized to open on LB 771.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. You know, I can't get used to this consent calendar thing. It's quite fascinating and frankly, I think the excitement is about...just almost too much to bear. I don't know what to do with it. I know what to do with LB 771. I think that the authorization of the State Treasurer in the capacity as trustee under the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act would make payments toward child support arrearages when the obligor, under the support order, is the owner of unclaimed property. Under current law, when a noncustodial parent has an arrearage owed to a custodial parent and the noncustodial parent is also an...also has unclaimed property, the State Treasurer lacks the statutory authority to pay unclaimed property to the custodial parent. And this bill would allow the State Treasurer to pay the unclaimed property to the custodial parent, crediting the payment toward an arrearage. To clarify our intent, Senator Schimek, as Chair of the Government Committee, will offer an amendment specifying that such payment shall only be made to credit that arrearage. Since our State Treasurer administers both unclaimed property and child support, and the Child Support Payment Center, it almost feels like the left hand knows what the right hand is doing, and our State Treasurer has the ability to implement this. LB 771 gives our State Treasurer the authority to do it, and it should be noted that this is not a completely novel approach. Similar things