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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: These are public jobs. Then work experience, if sufficient private-sector employment is not available.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion? Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I think Senator Chambers has a valid point. I think the question is, is what are we actually doing? Senator Jensen, I think, has done a good job of trying to outline it, and it may not be answering the specific questions. The reason, as I understand the briefing that we as the Health Committee received--and there are other Health Committee members on the floor that may be able to correct this, if I'm not exactly getting it right--but the reason we need to do this is so that any experience that is gained under these different options that are available in statute, they can count towards that 50 percent. Right now we're at 34.5 percent, which the goal into the new Deficit Reduction Act of '05 is to have the states at 50 percent. So we have to come up with ways to encourage people to voluntarily...and to a benefit to the state to maintain the funding to meet their needs. This program, the amendment specifically...or the section of page 5, sub (4), where it strikes "The placement shall not exceed three months," federal law doesn't allow that. If our state statute doesn't reflect the federal law in that area, there won't be any work experiences, as I understand it, counted. And so there needs to be some consistency. In the event that someone is in that program an extended period of time, that's a failure of the state, and so we have to also look at it from that standpoint. But I would yield time to Senator Chambers, if that...if he would desire for further discussion. I don't know if that helped clarify it, but I would yield you the time, Senator, if you would like it.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR PRESIDING

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Senator Chambers.