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FLOOR DEBATE

March 7, 2006 LB 1175
 LR 188

In the course of the 2005 interim study introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee, which was LR 188, it came to light that some of the MFOs created to qualify for funding were not operating as unified organizations--or at least that was the determination--but rather solely as mechanisms for collecting state funds. The original notion of consolidated bodies budgeting and operating jointly, we deemed it to be largely ignored. This legislation originated with that study and is aimed at ensuring that the MFOs qualifying for state funds were truly operating jointly. The bill requires that the MFOs...LB 1175, that is, requires that those MFOs created under the act are truly operating and organized in conformity with either Interlocal Cooperation Act of (sic) the Joint Public Agency Act. And additionally, each MFO making application for funds under this act is obligated to provide the State Treasurer with any additional financial information required by the Treasurer evidencing the manner in which the funds under the control of the MFO had been distributed most...in the most immediate prior fiscal year, or how the organization was proposing to distribute them in future years. And further, the evidence should show that the funds had been expended in a manner consistent with the purpose of the act. Now, we have, as we like to say, "Christmas-treed" LB 1175. I will...that really pretty much concludes the opening on LB 1175. I can elaborate on LB 1175, which is an element of the entire package, later on while addressing the committee amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. You've heard the opening on the Urban Affairs Committee LB 1175. As Chairman of the committee, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments, Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. As I mentioned, while retaining a portion of LB 1175, which happens to be in Section 7 of the committee amendment, the bulk of the committee amendment would incorporate the provisions of five other bills heard by the Urban Affairs Committee that deal with issues of municipal administration. Each of the bills was advanced by the committee on a full 7-vote unanimous decision. No one testified against any of these