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FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2006 LB 968

component of the committee amendments is by Senator Chambers, FA618. (Legislative Journal pages 1112-1113.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on FA618 to AM2801.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if you call up this amendment on your gadget, it will look very familiar because you saw it this morning. It is the amendment that had been offered by Senator Brown, which would exempt from sales and use taxes these housing authorities or housing agencies as defined in a specific section of the statutes. The reason I wanted to offer the amendment at this time is because it comes hot on the heels of the ethanol amendment. Even those who spoke most strongly for it had to acknowledge that this is a greater amount than is needed to meet the state's current obligations. So they appropriate from the General Fund, no corn checkoff, a total of \$10 million. Senator Connealy told us that there may be a \$2 million shortfall after this year, but to be sure they put in five times as much as what that shortfall would be. Others argued that while times are good, put some more money in this EPIC Fund, even though it is not needed at this time. Senator Beutler pointed out earlier that there's going to be a need to find money to continue funding these cuts that are envisioned in this bill if they are to be permanent, and nobody seems to be very worried about that because the Governor supports this bill. I strongly support the amendment that I'm talking about, and I do believe that if the Legislature collectively, would consider the problems that families have generally, presided over by a single female, we would do what this amendment says ought to be done. Again, it goes to the situation confronting a woman who is of little or no means, who has to provide shelter for her children. So in the same way that other bills have had a bearing on the welfare of children, this one does, too. That language is underlined about midway down in the amendment, and that's all that is implicated here. There was a man named Thomas Hood who wrote a rhyme, a poem his would be called, because he was a poet, around the middle 1840s, and it was called "The Song of the Shirt." And when you get my age, Senator Redfield, words don't hang on those little hooks in your brain like they once did, but part of it said something like...and it's about a woman who's singing the