March 23, 2006   LB 994

SENATOR HOWARD: Oh, actually, I was...I put my light on in order to respond to Senator Pederson, if I may engage him.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may speak. Senator Don Pederson, would you yield?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes, I will.

SENATOR HOWARD: And, Senator Pederson, I hope that you don't feel that I've sort of gone around the process, which is certainly not my intent.   What...the reason that I introduced this amendment was very simply to point out, with the new expectations from the federal government, there comes new requirements place on the workers. And I feel I'd be remiss if I did not come in with some attempt, some effort to address that.   Now that's my entire reason for presenting this. If the wording that I used is not correct, I apologize for that, but the intent is to point out that with the additional responsibilities that have been given to us and the risk of losing both TANF dollars, as well as having federal sanctions which the federal individuals explained to us, I feel that I need to present this information.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Did you want me to respond?

SENATOR HOWARD: If you'd like to.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, (laugh) my purpose is that in the ordinary process, you present a bill, you have a hearing on the bill, and it is determined whether or not there should be funds provided for this.   I think this bypasses the public hearing aspect of it.   It talks about and purports to express an intention of the Legislature to do something, without referring to how many dollars, how we established the ten full-time workers. I think it's a "feel good" sort of thing, and I don't think that it's appropriate to present, in this manner, an intent bill. I think this just merely states what sounds like a good idea, and it's a result of what you heard from your meetings as far as TANF is concerned, but that should be resulting in the form of legislation that is submitted to a committee by virtue of a bill, and it's determined how many, if