

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006      LB 925

Senator Pedersen turned out like, but I believe this. Right now, in the committee amendment, we have a 1-year license revocation on a first offense high BAC, \$500 fine, and 10 days in jail or 240 hours of community service if the penalty given is probation or suspended sentence. We are changing that, with this amendment, to--pardon me for a second--from 10 to 2 years (sic), okay, still ratcheting it up, but it's a first offense, remember; and we're taking the 240 hours of community service and we're moving it to 120. Okay, now, one of the reasons that I agreed with Senator Pedersen's idea in regard to that first offense is because I talked to three judges before we started this process, and they said, do you know how long it takes, and do you know what it does to somebody with a first offense to get them out there to do 240 hours of community service? They don't even take it. They say, that's not even viable. Maybe 120 is. But there's another thing that Senator Pedersen was quite...what I thought quite convincing in regard to, and that is, you spend two nights in jail, a 22-year-old kid spending two nights in jail, that sends a message. Okay? Ten does, too, but two nights sends a pretty good message. And again, right now, with a first offense high BAC, there's nothing there. We are still creating an offense here. I would ask you to look at it this way, and then I will yield some time. I would ask you to look at it this way. Move this back, and let's do this, because we've heard some professionals in this area, and I think it's fair, but I also think we're maintaining the goal and the intent of LB 925 and what we set out to try to accomplish here. I would ask for your consideration on that. I would ask for the adoption of AM3236 after we pull this back. With that, I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Synowiecki, if he would like it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Thank you, Senator Friend, members of the Legislature. On General File, and again on Select File, I got up and I discussed some of the potential collateral consequences of what we were doing under LB 925. And I guess some of it resonated with some members and with Senator Friend. And I just want to, as Senator Friend was doing, want to emphasize a couple things. Number one, what