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LB 70

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yes.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...to explain the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam President, members, LB 70 simply gives the political subdivisions and other entities an option of receiving payment for whatever they want to pay, whether it be fees, and so on. Many people have worked on this bill. The Department of Revenue, NACO, League of Municipalities, we've got an AG's opinion on it, everyone has worked for the last, what, last two years on LB 70, and isn't a matter of whether it's...it's all collectively together, the county officials. It's optional. LB 70 does not actually do anything. It's optional. So with that, I will let Senator Robinson, Chairman of the Government Committee, explain the committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Senator Robinson, to explain the committee amendments.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the committee (sic), the committee amendment becomes the bill. The basic intent of the amendment is to allow states, counties and other political subdivisions to accept credit, charge, or debit cards for payment of taxes, fees, penalties, and so forth. The committee heard two bills dealing with this issue, one for the counties and one for the state, and thought it would best be to combine the two bills. Senator Cudaback can speak to the more precise details of the amendment, but I would like to point out a couple of major elements. First of all, the types of credit cards that will be accepted and the services that will be provided are decisions that will be made by the State Treasurer and the director of Administrative Services. These two will convene a committee to help them make these decisions, and then they will contract with one or more credit card companies or third party merchant banks for services on behalf of the state. Any counties or other political subdivisions who desire to participate in this contract may do so, but they are not required to. Counties, cities, or other political subdivisions may negotiate and contract independently or collectively as an entity for these services, a very important point. Another important feature of the amendment is that a state official,