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LB 125, 608

on page 1429 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the body, my amendment would add what is essentially the contents of LB 125, a bill that would allow for an exemption for small churches from elevator regulations, for the installation of key-switch elevators. There are some safeguards in the bill in terms of the churches needing to verify that the elevators will be used for elderly and disabled members of the congregation. It allows for an inspection of these elevators and it also provides that the churches must be exempt from any other state and federal regulations about the installation of elevators. And this is an issue that there's been some concern about safety issues. I really do believe that we have provided within the bill a lot of safeguards in that area. And I know that there's going to be some disagreement, and I know that there are individuals that can hold this piece hostage. And I will absolutely, unequivocally not do anything to hurt LB 608, it is too important of a measure for our state in terms of where they're going with long-term health care. But I really would ask that we have a fair vote on it and just let the will of the body prevail. And, with that, I would close. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Brown. Discussion on the Brown amendment. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I am aware and have read the letters that we've all received that are in opposition to this particular amendment. I would, I think, be remiss in my responsibility though if I didn't remind the body that in the absence of this, most of the churches that Senator Brown is concerned about are quite frankly, as happens in all small congregations, have a difficult time meeting the daily expenses, let alone accumulating many resources. If you can concoct in your mind a picture of what happens today in many of these churches is that the elderly or the frail or whatever are either bodily carried or sit in a chair and the chair is carried up and down...up and down the stairs, either into the meeting area, or as you've seen many churches have a number of...number of steps going into