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LB 150

provided. I don't want our state employees to be in jeopardy out there. So I guess I'm just balancing a whole lot of things in my mind.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I thought Senator Maurstad's remarks were right on target. We do need to know what a fiscal note would be on this particular amendment, and I'm glad that you're working on that. When you said there would be 33 to 50 percent savings, I'd like to know what that's based on. But, having said all of that, I like the direction you're going. I'm going to probably support the amendment as is, at least I support the concept and I thank you for bringing it to us.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Brashear, followed by Dwite Pedersen, Jones, Maurstad, Chambers, and Vrtiska. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I rise in support of LB 150. I have consistently supported the bill from committee to this point in time. I am not certain of the Pedersen amendment, simply because I'm not certain it has all the specificity that it needs in order that we adopt it here. But I wanted to rise early in this debate and say that this is one, and we don't...some of us don't often say this, this is a debate that I'm glad it's going to last eight hours. I think this is one of the most important discussions that we will have on this floor this year. I hope that we can engage our citizenry. These issues are really important. And this is not a vacuum, we don't deal with these issues in a vacuum, and it's important that people understand that. I have circulated on the floor a somewhat colorful exhibit, called "Legislation and Prison Population". And the reason we conceptualized that was because I thought it was important to show the members of the body and engage in a discourse that would enlighten the citizenry that what we do here, in seeming or actual response to what the citizens want us to do, has impact, it has consequences. And if this body wants to deal with issues with integrity and with authenticity then we have to understand not only the cause but the effect, the consequence of what we're doing. This exhibit does nothing more than illustrate visually