

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 518, 594A, 594

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I'd move the advancement of LB 594 to E & R for engrossing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Question before the body is, shall LB 594 be advanced to E & R for engrossing? All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. It is advanced.

CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB 594A, no E & R's. The first amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Lynch. Senator, AM1270. (AM1270, Legislative Journal page 1633.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Lynch, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, this amendment and A bill has to do with something we discussed earlier. I think originally it was LB 518, and it was a vital part of our concerns for those who are disabled, et cetera. At the present time the income for those who are poor, the poverty level of income is about \$681 a month. If you are disabled, that's about what you receive, along with some other benefits that may have to do with housing or food stamps, et cetera. There is an awful lot of disabled people who would like to have the dignity of work, who would like to be able to provide more for themselves, and in some cases for their families, and would like to have the pride that goes along with that kind of independence. But you see, if they make over \$681 a month, then they lose their Medicaid. I think you'd be the first to agree that maybe most of them probably could even...not even be accepted into any kind of a health insurance program or be eligible if they were even in a group, in some cases. Because of that, we inhibit people from having their own pride and their own independence and the dignity that goes along with being able to work. There's an awful lot of employers that have indicated that they would like to help people with disabilities, and there are some that do. But in some cases, because of the threat of losing their health insurance, now Medicaid, because these are people under 65, of course they have no ambition, and in some cases don't even try, if they have the opportunity to work even more. What the bill did was simply provide that they could work at a level up to 200 percent of the poverty level and still maintain their Medicaid. It provides also that if they went over 200 percent, up to 250 percent, at which point they would lose their