

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 20, 2002 LB 1309
 LR 318

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Just one item, a new resolution by Senator Vrtiska, LR 318. It's a study resolution, Mr. President. It will be referred to the board. That's all that I have. (Legislative Journal page 1050.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) We're back to debate on LB 1309. Mr. Clerk, we now move to amendments to the committee amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment to the committee amendment, Senator Schimek, AM3175. (Legislative Journal page 1037.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President and members, I introduced this...this amendment first thing after I saw the letter from the AARP, which I think I've had distributed to all of you. It involves the issue about the \$1 copay on prescription drugs. And, you know, one of the things about the whole budget process is it oftentimes...it oftentimes goes so fast that you don't even know what the issues were in the budget. And this one concerned me, based on the letter that I have received. And it...the purpose of the amendment is to restore the \$1 funding to keep the prescription copay at \$1 instead of raising it to \$2. The AARP letter makes a very good point, and they say that this would be particularly hard for somebody who might have six prescriptions a month. And that sounds like a lot, but if you really start thinking about it, it doesn't necessarily mean prescriptions the way we think of them. If they're...if they're vitamins, for instance, that you've been prescribed, they may be over the counter, but those still are prescription drugs. So if...if you're thinking about that, and you'd have, say, six of them a month, that would be an additional \$6 a year...or a month, which would mean that you would have a 1.1 percent increase on your...tax on your income. The second paragraph, which I really didn't understand when I