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amendments. (AM2938, Legislative Journal pages 787-788.)

SENATOR CONNEALY: The committee amendments would add to the claims bill two claims that were added for Workers' Compensation Lump-Sum Settlements after the...after the bill was drafted. A tort claim is also added and some drafting changes and, finally, there's a change that I brought to the committee, a claim that was added to pay \$5,000 for a Health and Human Services worker, Kathy Anstine, for a suggestion that she made to the state that saved the state money. She initially promised...she was initially promised an award through the state's suggestion board, which was then revoked at the eleventh hour. This was because someone said that that part of the system was supposed to be in place but it just wasn't up and running at that time. Ms. Anstine's action prompted the immediate implementation of the procedure that wasn't in place when she suggested it and, thus, it did save the state money. The reason the committee added this claim to the claims bill is that we wanted to right this, what we think is a wrong to a state employee. These...in these difficult economic times, we need to show our state employees our appreciation for the diligent work that they do and encourage them to help find ways to save our state money. Also, I think it's necessary to send a message that the state employees' suggestion system needs to be fixed. The rules need to be revised and the process needs to be clarified. It's apparent that there's some confusion in the rules and it's arbitrary in how they're applied. We don't want to send mixed messages. We want these employees to be able to encourage improvements that save money and then recognize that. This has been, to some extent, an embarrassment to the state and we wanted to correct this oversight. Back to the original claims, we have a tremendous amount of ALRs again this year. We talked about the ALRs last year and hoped to be able to fix that problem. We have not done that. Over the interim we brought together the Treasurer's Office, the Claims Board, the Department of Roads...I mean the Department of Transportation, and the Attorney General's Office in an attempt to try to solve this, what we see as a problem, and have the claims come through the claims process for ALRs. As you remember, ALRs were set up where if you have a drunken driving arrest your license can be administratively revoked by the Department of Transportation.