

substituting \$10,000 on a proposed amendment to the bill. And I can come up there and change it at your desk.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I think I'll just talk here a minute so that Senator Bromm has time to do what he wants to do. This is a program that has had very limited use in the state, in fact, there's only been one utility that has taken up the statutory prerogative and is actually making loans under this particular program. But they seem to think it's very beneficial in their area, and they have worked at it very aggressively. And it's actually the manager and the board of that utility that came in, late in the session, before we...this was just a few weeks ago, and so there was not a bill on this particular proposition, there has been no public hearing on this particular proposition. And, for that reason, I suggested to Senator Bromm that we make the increase very modest in this particular proposal and that he have a bill next year that could involve a full scale review of the entire 66-1001 loan section. But this is essentially a section that allows utilities, any public utility to make zero interest loans to both residential and commercial entities for the purpose of energy conservation measures. And those measures are set out in 66-1004, and include such things as caulking, and weather stripping, and furnace efficiency, and water heaters and insulation, that kind of thing. The provisions of the whole statutory structure, though, is a little bit loose in that it is designed to operate only with small loans at this particular point in time. The limitation right now is \$3,000 per loan. So what Senator Bromm is suggesting now, as I understand it, is that we simply increase that to 10,000 for this year, review the program next year, and I think that's a fair solution for everybody involved. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Bromm, would you like to explain your substitute amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. I have gone to the Clerk's desk, and if you look at your Journal, page 1375, I've simply changed where it has 35,000, in amendment 1282, I have changed that to 10,000, which would...which would become the cap on loans utilities may provide customers for the installation of these energy efficient equipment matters. And so that...that's really the amendment. I...I have had contact from my district indicating that at least