

PRESIDENT: Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, LB 1258 is a somewhat difficult bill for folk to fully support because it does require local match of our homestead program, a 10 percent local responsibility. That is very difficult. But in getting that done that is going to save the state next year \$3.5 million dollars. The second part of the bill that is difficult I think for people is establishing some income standard for disabled claimants. What the Revenue Committee ended up doing is it established the same income standard for disabled claimants as currently exists for elderly claimants, but it did provide a special exception for veterans with 100 percent service connected disabilities. Senator Lynch is suggesting that that exception be made applicable to all disabled claimants. We have not been able to fully cost out his amendment but my belief is that his amendment could cost the state as much as a half a million dollars. Is it a big deal or a little deal? I don't know. LB 1258 is overall part of our basic budget package. My suggestion would be not to adopt Senator Lynch's amendment but let the bill stand as it currently is. In the summer and the fall, the Revenue Committee will work with these homestead issues pretty carefully. We may ultimately go with the kind of approach Senator Lynch's is taking, but I think at this juncture it would be wise to reject that approach.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Please keep your conversation level down so we can hear the speakers. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I have a question for Senator Lynch if he would yield.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Lynch, does your amendment speak to totally disabled?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, Senator, as described...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Only.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: So whether through a debilitating disease, whether through a military injury, or whether through a car accident, crash, motorcycle, if that person is adjudged totally