

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: ...and I don't know that this is the appropriate place for it, but I want to ask it so some time we can get the answer. There is a medical reimbursement plan that is available, I am under the impression, to state employees whereby they, basically, have withheld from their checks up to \$100 per month, and then as they incur expenses that aren't covered by insurance, they are reimbursed out of that fund, and it is a maximum, I think, of \$1,200 a year, but it is a medical reimbursement plan. Now the question is this, is that...does the funding for that, my understanding is it is possible for someone to draw all that money out up front, and, of course, it isn't withheld from the checks until they get their checks each month, does that come under this part of the budget, or is it...or where does that come into play at?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It is part of the health insurance budget, yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, I am curious if someone knows how long it has been since that \$100 a month has been adjusted. It has been pointed out to me that that's...that's extremely low in terms of what health insurance out-of-pocket costs are now, and I wonder...I wonder when, how many years it has been at \$100, if anyone would know that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: We understand that it's the maximum at this point that the IRS would allow for that. Now we'll verify that.

SENATOR BROMM: Is that right?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: But that's...

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: For a plan such as this.

SENATOR BROMM: So it's geared to what the max is that the IRS would allow as far as you know?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: We will verify that.