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LB 596

basically tell the Welfare Department that it is time for it to revise its standard of need. We will have given the Welfare Department a kind of a goal which it itself has already accepted, to wit, the federal poverty guidelines. We will not have cost the State of Nebraska the \$175,000 that was a part of my LB 35 and we will have also given the Welfare Department, this body and the taxpayers the out in the sense that we are saying, look, if your new standards are going to cause deficiency appropriations, then you can reduce your new standards appropriately but it will get us off dead center in terms of this very difficult subject, the standards of need in welfare legislation. Incidentally, there was plenty of precedent for us doing an intent legislation to having an effect on the standard of need. Two years ago Senator Steve Fowler had, as a portion of the intent bill, a provision that the standard of need in the AABD program be a consolidated standard. Prior to that time it had been a nonconsolidated standard. As a result of that intent language, the department went ahead and consolidated a standard of need. Thus I think that what I am doing here is perfectly appropriate and it is a very good suggestion by this body that the Welfare Department develop a realistic guideline, realistic standards to conform to the federal guidelines and to then take it from there. I would urge your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to speak on the Johnson second amendment?

SENATOR NEWELL: No, is there any other lights? Enough is enough, I think.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner's light is on. Shall I recognize Senator Warner?

SENATOR NEWELL: Is it only Senator Warner? Okay, then I will....

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I just rise to support Senator Johnson's proposal. My concern with LB 35 then, with this issue originally was that we would not place the state in the position of adjusting these payments and as a result build a deficiency or else build in a substantial increase without the opportunity to review, and as Senator Johnson has his amendment drafted, any adjustments has to be within the existing appropriation, and if that is not adequate, then the new standards are not provided until the Legislature has reviewed it and it seems to me that that is ample safeguard from a budgetary point of view and I think it is probably a