

the Health Department would be directed to submit reports regarding the effectiveness of the program. These responsibilities, I believe, cannot be carried on without sufficient and additional funding. I have not seen any estimates on Senator DeCamp's proposal, or the impact of his amendments and I think we can reasonably assume that it's going to cost a lot of money. I think too that there is an undesirability of joint treatment of laetrile and marijuana. Twenty states have legalized laetrile, and only seven have legalized marijuana, but no state, and I emphasize that, no state has passed the legislation creating a single governmental entity for the sole purpose of administering laetrile and marijuana. In many ways marijuana and laetrile are alike because they are used in some instances for treatment of cancer and glaucoma. The actions of other states though amply demonstrates the wisdom of a separate approach. Now, I'm not saying that I disapprove of the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, but I do say that we should approach it at a separate approach and that we should use these committee systems to bring anything as important as marijuana into the laetrile bill. I think in Section 15, Senator DeCamp's version prescribes a class 2 misdemeanor penalty for those convicted of violating the provisions of the act. Given the potential for abuse of the marijuana provisions of this act, a six months in jail and a thousand dollar fine would hardly act as a deterrent for the wide use of marijuana.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I've only mentioned some of the smaller problems. I'm sure that others will come up with more with Senator DeCamp's amendments to LB 382. There are many, many others I'm sure, and I strongly urge you to reject the amendments. They represent a backdoor approach to an issue which deserves extensive and open debate. It may be that marijuana could be legalized for medicinal purposes, but let us consider the issue on laetrile first on its own merits, and then in a separate bill next year consider the use of marijuana. LB 382 definitely is a laetrile bill. It should remain that way, and it should not suffer the marijuana amendment that Senator DeCamp desires. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I would suggest to those of you who are sponsoring this legislation that you're going to have to make your remarks brief and get to the question eventually. You have about...you've used up about 8 minutes of the 30. The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte. We're still speaking to the DeCamp amendment. Until there is a vote on that then