

March 18, 1980

LB 998

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would rise to oppose Senator Lamb's amendment to point out the committee action. The principal difference, I believe, there are two things that would account for the difference. One is the difference in the salary policy of course between the two agencies and to reduce the appropriation to the agency down to be the same as the Governor would probably result in the inability to provide similar wage adjustment that other state employees would have. The other two increases were specifically, as I indicated earlier, \$15,300 increase for contractual workshops, surveys, variety of activities by the agency to assist in their role that they play throughout the state. An additional typist position was to again reflect what the...what we felt was justified by their increase work load activity. I should point out that the agency actually requested \$228,000 so there was some \$35,000 that the committee did not recommend to you for their continuation budget next year.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I would just echo Senator Warner's points that the Governor's recommendations are built on some different salary policies and some other things and that you will find a lot of discrepancies throughout the budget between the Governor's recommendation and the committee's recommendation. One of the prime reasons for this is our concern for the salaries and the fact that we felt that salaries should be a higher priority. So, given that and given the way the committee calculated to poll the Governor's figure is somewhat arbitrary and in fact prevents the funding of the salary policy that we think is very important to state employees. I would oppose Senator Lamb's amendment. I think his figures would be inaccurate and inadequate for the salary policy that we have designed.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. Chairman, I would point out that it is some increase from last years amount, even at the reduced figure that is recommended by the Governor. However, in light of the explanation by Senator Warner, at this point I'll withdraw the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The amendment is withdrawn. What do you want to do with the bill Senator Warner?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I move that LB 998 be advanced to E & R Initial.

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