

April 14, 1980

LB 647

Assessor, Carol Broman, who said that she had a number of individuals who had come to her with this very debilitating situation, physical handicap, and felt that they were very deserving of exemption under the Homestead Exemption plan for the disabled, feeling that they had a very debilitating disease. As I said, progressive osteo-arthritis is a very crippling condition and the feeling was that they had to get special changes to their homes to be able to use them, and do a number of other things and it is very difficult for them to get around and to function fully in jobs or what have you. And so the feeling was that they deserved to be included under the disability provision of the Homestead Exemption, and I was asked by Carol to make this amendment to the bill. I will withdraw the other two amendments when they come up, but this is one amendment that I believe we should pass and add to the bill along with Senator Chronister's changes. I don't think that it would have a tremendous impact on the budget at all. I don't see that that many people who would be affected by it, but for those individuals who do suffer from this condition providing this relief to them would be very warranted and I think very beneficial. So I ask your support. Again, basically, what the amendment does is add to the disabilities list progressive osteo-arthritis and includes that so they are benefited from the Homestead Exemption program.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would just like to ask Senator Wesely one question if I could. I guess I had never fully understood the philosophy behind the disability exemptions. If a disability causes a person not to be able to earn income and therefore qualify under the income section, I can understand why they would be exempt. But for example, if a person who had a disability inherited a great deal of money and was, in fact, very wealthy would they still benefit from the exemption that you are advocating?

SENATOR WESELY: I think that would be the same condition as other disabilities that are now included, and I imagine that is the case.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So in other words, so a person could inherit a million dollars and still benefit from the exemption?

SENATOR WESELY: I believe that is the situation now. Yes.