

May 7, 1981

LB 541

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, this is a bill that was brought up last year, went through a hearing, came out of the committee, was on General File and we ran out of time, as I recall, it died on the vine like several bills do each year. This merely provides for \$100 a month expense for patrolmen. And I sent you a handout which shows that the impact is \$334,000. It actually is \$374,240 because as I understand it six patrolmen have been taken off the force for the coming year, so it would actually make the fiscal note \$5,760 less. In looking at your handout you can pretty well see what it does, and there is also a copy of the amendment. This was in the Governor's budget to start with and I heartily recommend that you adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I just would indicate that as has been pointed out this was a budget request, appropriate to put it on an A bill because of the statutory requirement that the amendment provides. However, I would call your attention to the fact that I don't think this is probably the year in which another \$374,000 for this purpose is possible to do. It is true that the Governor had it in his budget submission originally...of course, that was at an 8 percent salary adjustment, we are at 9. That is substantially more money than what this \$300,000 is, and I guess what I am suggesting is that within the framework of available funds I just don't believe that this is as meritorious as it might be. I don't think that it would be desirable to adopt the amendment and advance the bill with this provision and with this cost.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Dick Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think something we need to look at is the number of patrolmen that quit. In 1979 there were 23 patrolmen quit and in 1980, 22, so during those two years we lost 45 patrol...members of the patrol. And I think if we could do anything to help to retain them such as this providing meals, I think this would help and so I hope that the body goes along with amending this bill to provide this allocation for the patrol.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kilgarin and then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I just wanted to rise to support this