

March 23, 1982

LR 266
LB 970

Mr. President, a new resolution, LR 266. (Read. See pages 1387 and 1388, Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over, Mr. President.

SENATOR KAHLE: Okay, the next bill is 970.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 970 (read title). The bill was read on March 10th, Mr. President. It was referred to the Appropriations Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments. Senator Warner did had an amendment on page 1178 and I understand you wish to withdraw that, Senator?

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Warner, do you wish to withdraw that amendment? Okay, it is withdrawn.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Warner, do you want to explain the bill?

SENATOR WARNER: Okay, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 970 is the bill necessary to recognize the increase in health insurance of that portion that the state pays. The increase in the fees for the health insurance is roughly a 26 or 26.3% increase. As you know there is no change in the legislation as far as the type of coverage that the state pays for. It is the minimum coverage. If the employee wants coverage in addition to that, that is paid totally out of their own funds. The bill does carry an A bill which should also be advanced with \$1,258,000 of General Fund money. Total cost is \$1,800,000 with cash and federal and revolving funds taken into account. I should point out that some of you may recall the Governor came in and felt that this could be absorbed by the various agencies, but because the cost for the insurance needs to be allocated back to each agency proportionate to their number of employees and their cost, we made revisions in the general budget, 761, to make an allowance for that \$1.2 million so it is not additional money. It is in essence the same concept proposed by the Governor but the A bill will ensure that the funds are appropriately assigned to each of the agencies to reflect that agency's cost. So I move that the bill be advanced. It is legislation we need to implement almost every...well, every year that bids are taken on health insurance and when new ones come in, this reflects that increased bid.

SENATOR KAHLE: There are no other lights on. Is that your closing also, Senator Warner?