

April 5, 1982

LB 522A

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Johnson, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Johnson, you indicated that the fiscal note now assumes a standard which is not now in place.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR WARNER: Do I take it by your comment that the LB 522 also prohibits it from being put into place?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No.

SENATOR WARNER: What guidelines would prevent it from being put into place?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Nothing in 522 prevents it from being put into place.

SENATOR WARNER: Is it feasible that an amendment could be developed that would keep it from being put into place?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Sure. Yes.

SENATOR WARNER: Assuming that that means that we can amend it to do that, then I guess I have no objection to reducing the fiscal note but the body should understand, at least as I understand it, you correct me, Senator Johnson, if I am in error, but the \$2.5 million that is in 602 as well as what you are proposing to reduce here is based on the assumption that no more indigents than are currently being paid for by counties would be picked up but if there is not a prohibition to expanding that, then medical providers I assume would be trying to get the state to pick up all those indigents who are not now being paid for with state funds but are being absorbed by the various medical providers and charged there. So to ensure that your intent is followed through I would hope that an amendment to 522 would make it clear that no cost in excess of that \$2.5 million is going to be picked up by the state. Otherwise, I see nothing that would prevent it from becoming the \$8 or \$9 million as I don't know what grounds the Department would have not to take up those others.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.