

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, did you wish to speak again?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I raised the issue and I did purposely and the only purpose was to hold up the bill till the...as far as Final Reading is concerned, until the review of the program has been completed. Now the fiscal note is accurate as to what is currently going on. It indicates that it would require one additional person. It is the kind of activity that could be funded at a variety of levels. I suppose if the program was permanent and the only issue that I am trying to raise is to hold up the bill until the review of the activity is completed as far as the budget aspect and a figure arrived at, at that I don't know whether or not it should be funded with general fund or federal funds, or partially, and that is the extent of the issue as far as I am concerned. I wanted to raise it, as I probably will do on a variety of bills that may have a general fund impact, or others will raise, so that the body is aware of the issue that will be before them eventually.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, your light is still on, did you wish to speak again? Senator Haberman. Senator Haberman, your light is still on, did you wish to speak again? Okay. Senator Wesely, would you like to close? There are no other lights on.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members, I know it has been confusing to Senator Haberman and I am sure others of you are confused as well. Let me tell you again and try and back up and go through the program. It was adopted back in '81. It set up a mechanism by which we could help people that have handicaps and disabilities so that they could continue work and not lose all their benefits and so they could stay at home and not have to bear an unbelievable financial burden. All it costs is \$300 maximum per month. Now that is a total of \$3600 for a family for one person. Now this bill expands it a little bit, but \$3600 per family is what we are talking about and if you put them in a home or in an institution, you are talking \$15,000, \$20,000, who knows, lots more than that. So this is a much more cost effective way of dealing with the problem. So after a couple of years of not having budgeted the money, the administrations of both Governor Thone and Governor Kerrey and the Department of Social Services supported the program.