

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment developed from the discussion that occurred on General File. You will recall that there was specific funding that was provided within the bill that dealt with some additional fees. Those items were all taken out on General File. They were earmarked funds. What this amendment does is simply authorize the appropriation from the general fund reflecting the discussion that occurred on General File in the amount of \$250,000 to be deposited to the funds that were established, put in the limitation that not more than 75 percent of the amount deposited to the fund each year, together with 75 percent of the earnings on the investment of the balance of the fund would be used for the various purposes outlined in the bill, and that the process would continue until such time that the \$2.5 million had been accumulated in the fund. At that point only the earnings from the investment would be appropriated. In case somebody would ask how long that would take, assuming 10 percent interest, it would be about 29 years.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett, please.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of Senator Warner's amendment. As he suggested, this is an aftermath of the discussion on General File in which Senator Warner indicated that he would be in agreement with attempting to work something out as opposed to the earmarking, which was discussed on General File. I would hope the body would lend its support to the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask Senator Warner a question, if I may.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, would you respond please.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Warner, it's difficult for me to ask this question. Several others have asked me to ask it also. I'm not sure what you just said. Do I understand that the Legislature will appropriate \$250,000 each year from the general fund for this child abuse prevention fund?