

you to use some caution on the bill. This is one where it is going to have a cost, it does have a cost, the costs are unknown and that makes me a little bit nervous when we're looking at even next year at the biennium at current rates without any increase in spending, without any increased changes in revenue, we're looking at a possibility where we will not be able to even cover the 3 percent reserve and that bothers me a little bit and I just wanted to bring that to the body's attention at least so they can consider it in their deliberations. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wickersham refers to the inequity that because this does not extend itself into the civil area, I might join him and agreeing with him in that area and I certainly do want to say that may be something we should look at. It's a great concern to me that if I were to commit a capital offense, I could...I would immediately of course be awarded an attorney if I could not afford one. But if I were to file civil action against any one of my fellow colleagues here, I could harass them, I could ruin them financially and they have no recourse except to defend themselves time after time after time. Now this is going way beyond what Senator Wickersham was talking about, but I just want to point out that somewhere along the line the entire system has gotten out of kilter and the court system is clogged today because one person after another files a civil case against another individual and the court system grinds very slowly, the attorneys move very slowly, but very expensively and time after time after time individuals are impoverished because of the inequities of that system. And I would hope that some day there would be a method whereby the courts would look upon that kind of action with extreme disfavor and use their ability to discourage such actions very promptly in order to do several things, first, to prevent the wrong to the individual and, secondly, to unclog the court system.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Chambers, you're next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think Senator Bernard-Stevens' comments were irrelevant to the discussion before us here today. First of all, this is not a bill that says every time a person is charged with a criminal