

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 7, 1999

LB 594

have need of this type of program. And it does expand, it sounds fairly modest. I don't know if you had a second year or not. Did you have a second year? The \$140,000 may not expand much. I just wanted to call your attention to that fact and I guess use your own best judgment on this one. It is an amendment on this bill, at least it's on General File so you can contemplate that because I understand there is no General Fund impact on the original bill and this does add an impact to this bill, and that's all I have to say.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate on the Lynch amendment. Senator Lynch, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, just a comment or two. I think you all know how the system works. For example, in my district, I'm sure you have the same kind of family circumstance in yours as well, I actually have a mother who is in her nineties who takes care of her daughter who is in the sixties. The daughter in the sixties is in much worse shape than the mother in her nineties. But the mother in her nineties, the way the system works, cannot get that extra supplemental help needed, maybe 5 or 6 hundred dollars a month, so they can stay together in their own house and live out their lives as best as possible. Because they can't get that supplement, what happens is simple. They kind of take care of each other now. We allow them both to go to a nursing home, in some cases not even the same nursing home, and we'll spend up to \$3,000 a month, \$3,000 a month to take care of them. That's just silliness in my opinion. This is, in a sense, something like that. By helping people to work to...in fact to be completely frank, the cost of health insurance being what it is and because they will be affected so seriously, in the case of a couple that would like to be married, they don't get married, and a couple that's married, sometimes even get divorced because they don't want to lose their eligibility for their Medicaid. I don't know how we judge and gauge that cost but I got to tell you, it's got to be a heck of a lot more than \$144,000 a year. I hope you will give it a chance, move it to Select, if you will. We'll try to get some more ques...more questions answered, if you have any, about the real cost and we'll be pleased to do that. But it's a good idea and it's, I think, something that's long overdue, and given the cost of living, it's pretty obvious that it isn't very much even for a