

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

March 14, 2000 LB 1407

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. There is a sheet coming around to you that will outline, first of all, the child care expenditures, how they've been increasing, where the receipts have been, and then also where the dollars have come from to fund this additional expense. The committee amendment makes the following changes to the bill. It allows but doesn't require the state to provide work-related child care assistance to families with incomes up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level. It limits the receipt of such assistance to 24 months. It requires, that's 24 months by the way, not two years, that's 24 months. In other words, somebody could go to work and then become pregnant, get off the program, come back on. It's a total of 24 months, not necessarily two years. It requires the department to consider the asset...assets of the recipient family in determining the amount of such assistance. Right now there is no asset test in there whatsoever. The committee amendment raises the following issues for the Legislature's consideration, should the Legislature retain the status quo created with the department's administration decision to provide child care assistance to all families up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level with no limitation on the receipt of such assistance or should that decision be modified by this Legislature? The committee amendment raises at least two possible responses to that decision. It puts a limit on the receipt of assistance or requires the department to consider a recipient's family assets as well as their gross income. The committee amendment does both. With that brief explanation, that will conclude my opening. Be glad to answer any questions on the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. On the committee amendments to LB 1407, Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I was the sole member of the Health and Human Services Committee to vote against this and I intend to vote against the committee amendments and then the bill. Actually, it's not a bad bill and I don't disagree with what the bill purports to do. My sole reason for acting as I did is that if the director of Health and Human Services several years ago had the authority to do what the director did, both in expending the money and in changing