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funds so that kids could go to college. And the primary purpose of this was to have funds available from parents, grandparents, and others to provide for the college education. And I am pleased to report to you that as of today, this program was started January 1, and as of now, there's three and a half million dollars that's been invested in this program. And if you recall, last year I mentioned that...I said, this could well be one of the most popular bills that we will file and approve last year. And I think it's turning out that way. There are over 1,500 accounts that have been set up. And the purpose of this is to allow people to provide for the college education. But also, there's a benefit in the way of a tax deduction from the state income tax. I particularly want to thank Speaker Kristensen for prioritizing this as a Speaker's priority bill this year, and Senator Schrock, who has...who initiated the process, and with whom I have worked throughout the bill itself. There are only three changes that we want to make in this bill from what we initially filed. And these three changes result from actually going out in the field and seeing what people want and how the bill can be improved. And I would say that the treasurer and Union Bank, who is the administrator of the plan, have enthusiastically supported the program. They've gone around. We have not had any general commercial advertising for this. It's just been by virtue of the efforts that have been made out in the field. Excuse me. I'm having a little trouble hearing, Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Members, if you could please take your conversations off of the floor, in...out of courtesy to your colleague. Senator Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you. The three changes that we're going to make are as follows. We initially set a \$300 minimum for setting up one of these college savings plans. When they went out in the field and started talking to the people and looked at their concerns, there were a number of them that wanted to set up a payroll savings deduction. And if you set up a payroll savings deduction, it might be difficult to set up an immediate \$300 into the program to set the stage for the program itself. So we would like to change this and put no minimum. I've talked to the administrators, and they have said this is