

lose it, I am wondering why we would pay somebody. Sick leave is something we give somebody if they need need it. I don't think that it is supposed to be considered as a vacation. So I'm wondering why are we going to pay state employees accumulated sick leave if they weren't sick and they didn't use it, they didn't need it. The vacation I understand and I agree with that.

SENATOR CLARK: I'm going to allow him to answer this question even though your time is up.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Higgins, that is in compliance with state law that does permit that upon retirement an employee would receive, I believe it is up to one-fourth of their accumulated sick leave. Now the amount of accumulated sick leave is determined by the number of years they have worked for the state and I don't remember the maximum number of days that you can accumulate after 25 or 30 years, but of course I could check. But the law provides for one-fourth of that unused sick leave to be reimbursed.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I would have a question of Senator Warner also. I notice we have a certain amount in there for a judge who is ill. I understand the money allocated there is to pay for his replacement. My question has to do with sick leave of judges and so forth. Is that any different than any other employee of the state? In other words, do they use their sick leave and that is it or do we continue to pay their salary no matter what?

SENATOR WARNER: Again this is a relatively small agency but in this case it would be the same as any employee that is sick. He would be entitled to his regular salary as long as he does not exceed whatever it is, in this individual's case I do not know the number of accumulated sick days he has. . . eligible for. But, this is to provide that salary. Not because it is a small agency and they have to hire an additional individual to substitute, it does require additional funds. Now there are, if we are looking at the regular court system, you know, we do have provisions in the law and regularly in appropriations for district judges to come in and substitute, for example, supreme court judges the same provision can be within the district or county court system so it, because it is a larger group I guess it is almost routine if you have funds and a method to handle that, but this particular