

Burial spaces would be retained and a cash value of \$1,500 for life insurance. In summation, what we do here under this legislation is come in compliance with federal mandates under two bills that they passed. We provide for the transition benefit changes that are called for, we provide for the asset and income splits that are called for. We feel that this piece of legislation is needed and, of course, it does conform in some degree with what we passed last year but the federal government did take what we did and extend it far beyond what we had originally passed, but I would ask for support at this point in advancing this piece of legislation onto Select File and hopefully then, to Final Reading and passage.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Wesely. On the discussion of LB 362 advancement, Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Senator Wesely, could I ask you a couple questions, please? I appreciate all of your explanation and so on and I think I understand, so on, and I, too, have compared the new Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act. I think you're probably more familiar with this than I am, but there is a good possibility that that act will be repealed within the next year. Is it necessary that all of this be passed this year to conform with that and then as you know, growing daily, that act is under considerable...

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR NELSON: ...dissatis...people are more and more dissatisfied with it and, as I say, to postpone the implementation or repeal the entire act.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, I don't think they are going to repeal the entire act. They are concerned about fees that the older citizens are having to pay under that act and that is looking to be repealed but, as for these provisions, I don't see them being repealed and, in addition, we have to pass these this session because the mandate calls for them to be implemented this fall. We don't have any choice.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Any further discussion on LB 362? Senator Wesely, there are no further lights on. Would you like to close on LB 362?