

SENATOR LABEDZ: Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 362.

SENATOR LABEDZ: LB 362 is advanced. Mr. Clerk...raise the call. Mr. Clerk, LB 362A.

CLERK: Madam President, 362A offered by Senator Wesely. (Read title.)

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. Some people weren't here earlier and let me reiterate where we're at. LB 362 is the bill we need to pass to come into compliance with two bills that Congress passed last year, one dealing with welfare reform, one dealing with catastrophic coverage. The only differences in what is mandated by the federal government and what this bill provides for is in the minimums allowed on the resource asset retention under the spousal impoverishment issue which we passed last year in LB 419. There we provide that you can keep \$25,000, the Congress only had a minimum of \$12,500. The Congress also has a maximum of \$60,000, which we have to have to keep us in compliance. Otherwise, we are attempting, through this legislation, to meet that federal mandate and it's important that we do that this year. One other item. The A bill is slightly different than the budget bill that the Governor introduced that does provide for this, having the mandate that we have to provide for it, it is in the Governor's budget. There was information that has come out since the budget was developed and even probably since the A bill was developed and we're going to continue to work with Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee in how we get all the figures together. But nevertheless we do need to have the A bill to go along with the bill. If you have any questions again, I'll be happy to answer them.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Smith, on the advancement of LB 362A.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam President. I would like to ask Senator Wesely, and he did do some clarifying because I told him I had some concerns. I want to make it very clear, Senator