

Wesely, I do very much support the first part of this bill. It's something that we've been talking about for some time that I've been very supportive of. But the second part of the measure, which increases the amount of joint assets that a spouse could have when that partner goes into a nursing home, for instance. It is my understanding that you are telling me that that, too, is a new federal mandate, that this is...we just passed a piece of legislation last year, wasn't it, that dealt with the increase. And now we're looking at another jump to 60,000 as their half? In other words, that means if you had \$120,000 house, you could split that and keep 60,000 worth of assets. And it's an increase also from 400 and something a month to 7 something a month that they could keep for income...

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, and...

SENATOR SMITH: ...the spouse, the other spouse that is in the home.

SENATOR WESELY: On the assets we do go from a maximum, under our bill last year, of 25,000 to 60,000, and also on the income side we had a maximum of 475, and that actually goes up to 1,500.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay now, Don, can you explain to me, and I'm not just saying this, I mean, I really don't understand this exactly. When you say on one hand that the minimum is twelve-five and the maximum is 60,000, explain when we change this now to 60,000, as the maximum, what that means. Why is there a minimum and a maximum allowed?

SENATOR WESELY: Boy. Yes, and there is also minimum and maximums on the income side. If you get me into that, we'll really get confused. But on the...what we're trying to do is...let me give you some examples. Okay, let me give you...if you had 30,000 in assets, now by assets we're not talking about the home...

SENATOR SMITH: ...the home, we're talking about...

SENATOR WESELY: ...motor vehicle or the burial trust, okay, this is basic assets. Okay you've got \$30,000. Under the bill we passed last year, we split that and you could keep 15,000, see. Under this you could keep, because of the minimum figure, you could keep 25,000 of it.