

SENATOR SMITH: Am I confusing the minimum assets with the home? Is that what I'm doing, I'm mixing two things together here?

SENATOR WESELY: I don't think so. I don't think so. What is happening...okay, let me go back to that example. We just plain split the difference and said you get half of it. At 30,000, you get 15,000; at 20,000 you've got 10,000, we did all that.

SENATOR SMITH: Um-huh.

SENATOR WESELY: Because there is a federal minimum, and under this bill we make it 25,000, you get to keep, if you've got 30,000, you get to keep 25,000 as the well spouse.

SENATOR SMITH: That's assets other than the home you're talking about now. Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: And the other 5,000 gets sent in to help cover the cost of your spouse.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, okay so what I guess I was confused about is you have two different things we're talking about and I was mixing them. The minimum is twelve-five if you have...you split, that's how much you could keep, is that what you're saying? No, 25 you just said.

SENATOR WESELY: Twenty-five is what it is. But the federal government only mandates twelve-five. So we take, I'm trying...

SENATOR SMITH: We're doing that as a state? We're saying that's higher than the federal government's minimum.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Yes. We go up to 25,000, letting them keep 25,000.

SENATOR SMITH: Is that a part of this bill, or is it something that we did in the last time?

SENATOR WESELY: No, this is part of this bill. So that is...yes, yes, last year, I guess, we did it, too.

SENATOR SMITH: We did?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah.