

down. We cut it down to 75 a year. We thought that we would just as soon help the ones that need it rather than try to help them all. We extended it another two years. Once you're in the program, it's only a three-year program, but once you're in the program, you can finish out that program. So it actually will be a five-year program but it will cut it down on the fiscal basis for each year. And I think that will help an awful lot. We're down to about, we think, about \$200,000 the first year and about 400,000 the second year, but the total package of the whole five years is just a little over \$1 million for five years. But this is eventually going to help an awful lot of nurses in Nebraska. And I think that once we get through with the five...this three-year program or the five years, that we actually won't need it anymore. I think there will be enough nurses in the system then that it will help for all of the state. And there's also another part of the bill that they will pay them to stay in Nebraska. With this need and with staying in Nebraska, they will only get the money if they stay in Nebraska, which that is our...the way that we wanted to have the bill designed. So I think that will really help. And when all of the details and the fiscal note is worked out, which we will have before the next reading, I'm sure that there will be no more problem because we had them all worked out. They're up at the bill drafters right now and they just have not come down yet. So, with that, I think that the bill is in very good shape now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Goodrich, please.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Senator Schellpeper, would you respond to a question, please? Hello.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes.

SENATOR GOODRICH: In your working out of the amendments that you're working on, I notice on page 3, Section 5 of the bill, you are defining...you are saying to encourage nurses to seek and continue employment in rural communities and then you refer to communities but you don't define communities. In other words, like, for example, in communities of less than 10,000, we'll say, does that mean the city that they're working in or does that mean the county that they're working in? What...what constitutes a community?

PRESIDENT: Senator Schellpeper, start over, would you, please.