

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: I ask to move the bill.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? If not, the question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. It is advanced. LB 362.

CLERK: LB 362, Mr. President, Senator Ashford would move to return the bill for a specific amendment. (The Ashford amendment appears on page 2482 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Ashford, please.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, this amendment deals with the emergency assistance program which is...currently provides assistance to needy families with minor children who are threatened with a crisis situation when there are no other resources available through other assistance programs. Funding is provided by a combination of 50 percent federal and 50 percent county funds. Recently, the federal representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services reviewed our particular...the way we structure our emergency assistance program. In this case, as I mentioned, the state's current program is administered by the counties and the counties pay the 50 percent match requirement. The counties pay approximately \$250,000 and the remaining amount for the program is federal funds of two hundred...approximately \$250,000 per year. However, after the audit was completed it was determined that the federal government, in order to continue to provide the match and to avoid imposition of federal sanctions, it was necessary that the program actually be administered directly by the Department of Social Services rather than by each individual county. The amendment to LB 362 is an amendment which simply adds the words "emergency assistance" to the...to the portion of the bill to make it clear that the Department of Social Services will be the administering arm for this program. The statute which requires the counties to provide that the funding will continue and it will enable the county...or the program to continue to get its 250,000, approximately \$250,000 in federal fund match, the program...this is basically a technical change to comply with federal rules and regulations. And I would move...ask that the bill be returned to Select File for the purpose of making that amendment. Thank you.