

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, Senator Haberman just, I think, gave an erroneous description of what this bill does and I think it would be unfortunate if that were the only thing that were in the minds of people as they begin to vote. I plan on relinquishing most of my time to Senator Chambers to give him an opportunity to explain the bill, but my understanding of this legislation is at this point 543 is primarily placing in statute a program that already exists via legislative resolution and via the appropriation bill last year and that this bill, at this point, I don't believe appropriates any dollars and I would give Senator Chambers the rest of my time to make that explanation if he would do so.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, when I offered this and it was passed across, I explained that last session we appropriated \$800,000 in the budget bill, that there was a resolution explaining the program so that it would be clear what that appropriation was for and give direction in setting it up, that it has indeed been set up now and is functioning and this bill simply is the statute, the bill that would have put it in statute, but it got caught in the press of things and did not go through, so all this bill does is to make statutory the program that we did by resolution that the body supported and there is no appropriation in this bill, there is no A bill to follow. It simply makes statutory the program that is operational now. So there is no money in this and, Senator Withem, I'm going to give back the time that may be remaining if he needs any of it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Just one additional question I'd have for Senator Chambers in terms of year after year appropriation. As I recall how we set up the program we basically set up an endowment with a one-time appropriation and this is not going to be a year after year appropriation. Am I correct or incorrect in that assumption?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's correct. It was a one-time appropriation. The endowment has been established and there is nothing in this bill that would require an appropriation now or any time in the future. It's just a bill to make statutory what