

through these just a little bit for the record and indicate to you what the change in procedure for the Claims Board that the Business and Labor Committee agreed might be a better way of handling outdated claims. I have been involved in discussions with the State Treasurer and the Claims Board for nearly three years now relative to the method of handling outdated claims from individuals that are, basically, small in amount and are the result of a refund check of some type being tucked away and then not rediscovered until some years later. The Claims Board has held until recently that since they can only verify these checks going back five years, and they are not then able to verify whether there has been a duplicate check issued prior to five years before the claim, that they should go through the claims process. I think, historically, the Legislature has always paid these claims by the citizens of the State of Nebraska. The Business and Labor Committee would like to indicate in the record for the use of the State Claims Board that it is the intent of the Legislature that the Claims Board pay all out-of-date state warrants on income, retirements, and similar accounts to individuals up to a total of \$500 if the board investigates a claim, and to the best of their ability, notwithstanding the five year retention rule, discovers that the warrant has not been paid or a duplicate issued and the warrant is to an individual. So if an individual check that is over five years old would come in that totaled more than \$500, they would still, the Claims Board would still be required to not approve that and send that as part of the rejected claims to the Legislature. The total of the committee amendments, then, reduces the amount of the fiscal note on 1244 from \$277,411.21 to \$275,760.35, of which \$117,396.97 will be from the General Fund, and \$158,364.27 will be from the various cash funds. In addition, 1244 authorizes a number of write-offs for uncollectible checks and warrants that various state agencies have. So with that, I would move for the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? If not, the question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Anything further on the bill, Mr. Clerk?