

all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to amend. I now have, Senator, 3123 in front of me. (AM3123 appears on page 1564 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wehrbein, would you handle it, please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. The copy of this amendment is being handed out. I, right now, don't have one in front of me. But what...this is a request brought to us by the Department of Personnel, and it simply is as it states. I'll give just a little background about this. It's considering the implementation of a flexible spending account for state employees. A flexible spending account allows employees to designate a dollar amount from their salary that they wish to set aside for use in paying for dependent care expenses, health care expenses not covered by their health insurance program, or other appropriate expenses, in this case related to health. The employee has their salary reduced by the designated amount, to a maximum allowable, thus reducing the employees taxable income for social security and federal and state income tax. The money is then set aside in account until the employee requests reimbursement for allowable expenses. The University of Nebraska has had this for approximately four years, since it was authorized by the feds. This is an effort to bring this into one of the options for the state Department of Personnel. This is simply setting up a consultant and to provide the computer hardware and software associated with such a system. It will be...the money will be coming, the \$75,000 will be coming from an account that is...has to do with the health and insurance premiums. So it amounts to a cash funding. It comes out of the...I'm looking for the account, interest from the health insurance program and possibly the life insurance program. So the money is...in this premium account, the money will be spent from that account to set this up. We did not go so far as to authorize the operation of this account. By doing this now, it can go into effect, perhaps, in 1991. It simply takes quite a while to get into this program, using the consultant. It is somewhat yet an exploratory program to see if it is appropriate