

for the use. And we felt that it was important to go ahead with this at this time to set the wheels in motion so that this possibly could be used. Once again, it is not money from the General Fund, but it does come from the insurance and health insurance premium account, and will be funded eventually from the interest of that. Now, we will have more on this in another year, to determine the amount, if there is to be a reserve of this, or whatever. But this is a first step in setting up this flexible spending account.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Warner, would you care to make a comment on the amendment, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes, Mr. President. I just want to reemphasize, briefly, a comment that I think Senator Wehrbein touched on it. But there is in existence, as I think he indicated, an employee management team that reviews a lot of changes. And what this language could eventually lead to is a part of that discussions that would be involved in negotiations at some point. The only money that we are approving, as we understand it, is money which will develop factually with the consultants, together with some software hardware. The legal aspects that are involved with this kind of an approach...and it is not to be assumed that the addition of this funding places into the appropriation bill language that...or an appropriation that would tend to imply some preconceived negotiations result, but rather leave that as open as it would have been in any event. But it's only to provide basic information that will enable those involved in negotiations to better determine the impact of any alternative. So I would support the inclusion of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Senator Wehrbein, would you like to close?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members. No further questions on this, I would move the advancement of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Shall the Warner amendment, as offered by Senator Wehrbein to 1031, be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Warner's amendment.