

process last year. It came out of committee, was across the floor, became a Speaker priority bill, but it never did get advanced through Final so that it became law by the time we adjourned at the end of last year. And if you have a question about what the purpose for this increase would be, or what is a personal needs allowance, let me just tell you that a personal needs allowance is a supplement which is the only kind of money that someone living, for instance, in a long-term care facility has to buy those other personal kinds of things that are not provided by the facility. Now you might think that everything is provided by the facility but, in fact, that's not the case. It includes such things as clothing, night clothing, slippers, shoes, if you have any special kinds of things that are needed, for instance, built-up shoes for someone who may have some other kind of disability. It includes Kleenex, any kinds of cosmetic care or health items for that individual. If the person is mobile, it would include any kind of recreational additional things that they might want or need for themselves, like magazines, newspaper items, stationery, stamps, those kinds of things. And so when you really figure it out \$30 for a full month for covering all those additional kinds of needs is not very much money in this day and age. The last time there was an increase for this group of people was in 1981. So, when we talk about inflation and the cost of living increases, they definitely have not been a part of...recipients of that kind of an increase. Many of these people don't have family members for additional kinds of support to provide these things, if you're thinking that, well, there's somebody else out there that could provide some of this for them. Keep in mind many of them don't have family members to assist them in this. Basically, that's what the gist of the bill is. And, if we have questions, I'd be glad to try to answer them. Otherwise, I'm just asking for your support for this much needed increase for these folks. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, maybe if Senator Smith would yield to a question. We all...looking at the fiscal note, the impact of this bill is somewhat sizable. I would think you would agree with that, Senator Smith. But the one question I had, at some point in time, because it's changing...Section 1 of your bill says, the Department of Social