

information and give it to the Legislature.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I remember your comments in discussing the bill on General File as we advanced it and your concerns at that time. As I...Without looking at the amendment, without having it in front of me, I'm a little bit at a lack of how we're going to administer this. It seems to me that we're making...that we're becoming very burdensome in relationship to record keeping, that we're going to be required of the counties, who are administering the program, in order to keep track in very...in very detail...detail oriented, keep track of what happens to the people who are receiving general assistance. I'm somewhat disconcerted that Senator Abboud is not here to be able to have the opportunity to address this. Now he obviously did know the bill would come up this morning, or had some idea, so maybe he felt that there was no problem. I think at this time I, personally, will oppose this just on the basis of the record keeping that it looks like it might involve. And I'm not certain this is Senator Abboud's...really the intent of the language of the bill as he has introduced it. So I'm going to rise in opposition to the Bernard-Stevens amendment at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Actually, Senator Byars, I appreciate your comments to a degree. One of my concerns is that when you take people that technically qualify for general assistance, and then you put into law an act saying we want them to have to do some type of work in order to, I guess, justify that...do something in return for the money that they already qualify for in the first place. I have a real problem with Douglas County and other areas where we know there's been attempts, that we know there has been abuse in these particular programs. And it's always fascinating to me when you...when one would try to say, listen, if we're going to allow you to do this, that's my compromise over the last couple years, okay, we'll let you do this, but we want you to at least put in a report. Now each year they're supposed to file a report to the department on general assistance, anyway. By the way, they don't...in many cases they choose not to file the reports. I don't know why they don't want us to know what they're doing. This particular amendment simply says, if we're going to allow you to do this, where we've had some concerns in the past, one of the things we're going to ask is that you just give us some information on