

these minor building modifications, when done in response to a special ed need, the state reimburses, as we do special ed costs in the State of Nebraska, at a rate of 90 percent. One of the concerns is obviously with the advent of ADA in our nation and in the state, and particularly on local school districts, a lot of activity is going to occur in the way of minor or major building modifications that would meet special ed requirements but also meet ADA requirements. And I'm certainly not accusing or hypothesizing that anyone is going to deliberately do that. But the fact is that would certainly be, without this bill, would certainly be an opportunity, perfectly legal, for a school district to call it, and it certainly would be within the modifications of special education, but also meet their ADA requirements. And so there's a great deal of concern of this particular program growing dramatically, in years to come, as school districts meet their ADA requirements and the state reimburses them for special ed costs. I...we all, local and state government together are going to have to come to grips with just how we are going to deal with ADA, and what it is we have to do with ADA, how we're going to fund what we have to do with ADA, is something I think we all need to take a close look at. And how the state is going to participate on a local level is something that should be discussed. I do not think it would be proper, in an event like this, for school districts, unlike other local governments would have available to them this special education type reimbursement to meet their ADA requirements. And so I...the wisdom is if you eliminate this program now you will not allow, so to speak, a back door approach to funding your ADA problems and have the state reimbursing 90 percent. As I say that and as I close that door I certainly feel that, as I already mentioned, understand ADA is going to cost a lot of money, we have to do something about it, but to allow it to happen like this is probably not the proper policy. Having said that, as I mentioned in the beginning, the fiscal impact to the state and the savings in the special ed department is at least \$900,000 in each year of the next biennium. Since special ed is reimbursed a year in arrears, the present year has already been committed and those were modifications that happened last school year, if you pass the bill now the modifications being planned for this school year, they would know they would not be reimbursed next year. So the actual savings would not happen until the next biennium that starts July 1, '93. With that explanation of the policy, of the dual policy reasons there, as well as the potential cost-savings to the State of Nebraska, as well as, you know, close to a