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look at the other problem and we may or may not address it. If need be, we will address it in January, but we may find that actually what we are doing does not miss the number that much. And so having said that, Senator Ashford may want to explain in further detail the actual number we are talking about here.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Senator Moore. This bill or amendment is the identical language to LB 1272, which Senator Moore and I introduced last year or last session. What it does is it cuts out of the wards of the court program payments made to school districts for the children who are located in that district who are living in foster care. And, obviously, those children can either be within...from that district or from some other district. We have been through the public policy arguments about this particular proposal now so many times that it is...I am not going to be redundant and go over in long division the underlying rationale other than to say that there are other...there are two other parts to the wards of the court program. One is a payment by the State of Nebraska directly to group homes and like institutions across the State of Nebraska which directly educate students or children in the institution, in the group home itself. The third group are individuals like, for example, the Grace Home in Henderson, Nebraska that live in a group home and are educated for the most part in the public schools. Those two other groups of children in the state will continue to receive the benefits of the wards of the court funding. What we are essentially doing by this amendment is returning the wards of the court program to its original basis, which is to fund or to provide funding for wards of the court, their education, in group homes and in like institutions. The savings are not as great and it was...we've looked at other alternatives. For example, we talked at one point about cutting the program back by specific dollar amount, rather than to deal with specific parts of the program, and then we ran into the problem that Senator Moore alluded to and that Senator Withem talked about and that is being able to determine what the status of these children would be if we were to take any funding out of the group home portion of the wards of the court program, and that there lies the problem with the Governor's proposal and with any across-the-board or flat cut out of the program. It is, with the information that we have had before us in the last couple of days, and even last year, the last session, it has been, and there is a great deal of