

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

State Legislators local committee and there, at that time, had seen that there were some efforts with other states to look at loans for local government and some of the things that were happening. So in concept, you know, I think you're going in the right direction. But in looking through the amendment, I have some real questions and Senator Warner defined some of them there in the first part and I share his concerns when it comes to legal mandates, so I'm not going to spend a lot of time on that one. What I'd like to do is to move on down, and I'm looking at the three, number (3), is a local government may file a claim for reimbursement of indebtedness for a grant or a loan. And then as I, as you move or down under (b) it says to provide financial relief to local governments in the form of grants. There it doesn't mention a loan. So I think there could be some confusion. I don't see any criteria as to when you would qualify for a grant or when you would qualify for a loan, and what would make a difference between a grant and a loan. The other thing is if it would be a loan, I don't see anything in here, it may be, but I don't see it, that looks at a method of repayment if it is a loan. I know this is a new amendment and you probably haven't had time for a fiscal note, but I can't imagine that there would not be an increase in staff at the Risk Managers Office. I don't know what kind of information you might have there as far as the increase in staffing. And then in number (6), when we talk about the Government Catastrophic Financial Fund to the extent that there are funds available, I have...I don't have a clue what that might mean, looking at how we handle the kinds of payments that the state has chosen not to pay, how it's come in front of the Legislature, looking at that appeal process if we have decided, for some reason, not to make full payment how they will...how the local governments can come back and look for that, depending upon what we consider funds available. Again, what you're trying to do I can understand and I can sympathize with and would hope maybe we could even find a way. But I just really am quite uncomfortable with the amendment at this time and would need some answers to those questions. And with that, I would give you the remainder of my time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Vrtiska, you have approximately three minutes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Hillman. I appreciate your questions and I will try to respond to some of them as best I