

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I do have a lot of questions raised, but I don't think I'll take up the time. So I'm going to support the amendments, but I'm not sure that it's going to put the bill in the place that I can support at the end. I'm concerned, as I read through these amendments. And I guess I'm going to ask some rhetorical questions rather than put an attorney or anyone on the floor on the spot. But to me if there's not standing to bring, using Richardson County's situation right now, if there's not standing for it to be brought to the floor at this point, for direct reimbursement, because it would be special class legislation, I'm interpreting that this might bring that...put...make...change that under this bill so it would have standing. And I'm reading the end of the amendment, top of page 870, where it says the appeal can then be taken to the state Legislature. I'm concerned what kind of standing, all of these issues that we're bringing up here, will they get standing for the Legislature to be considered under what now cannot be considered, in addition to the fact I think it's opening up a whole broader area. So even though I agree with the sunset as a way to perhaps try it, I would ask Senator Beutler how your sunset is written, Senator Beutler? Does it close the window for application on June 30th of 1998? There must be an application. It has nothing to do with when the event occurred. The application would have to be submitted, so it would shut the door on the applications. Anyway, I'm going to pursue this, because we're not going to get to the vote today, with some legal advice, I think, to understand how far-reaching this is as compares to the tort claim process, which I am not totally knowledgeable about so I can see how this fits in. And that's my comments on this bill. I will vote for these committee amend...this amendment at this point, if we come to a vote on it, but I'm not necessarily going to support the bill.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, what Senator Beutler is doing puts me in a quandary. I don't want to put an aye vote on this bill for anything, but his amendment will narrow the bill and it