

February 26, 1996 LB 1248

I know any process that we do here can be appealed on a constitutional basis. I can assume that it may or may not be, but I'm trying to get a clearer understanding of what this does and my chief concern, as I said Friday, does it create an entitlement, that through which even through the legislative process, we would have no recourse. And so I am going to...I guess I will ultimately probably decide to advance this, but I will be very interested on what will happen on Select because I recognize the need, but I also don't know where it goes with future potential problems that we are not imagining yet. I don't know enough about Orange County, California to know...I guess that was man-made, as it turned out, so that is not a disaster anymore under this definition, but there are other issues that I want to understand more broadly, and so I guess I'll sup...vote for this to advance, but I just want to put on notice that I'm going to look at it very carefully, depending on what other...many of these questions being answered. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Warner or Senator Wehrbein, I appreciate your comments and I think that you have to understand that what we're trying to do is exactly what you said, and if there is anything in here that would, in fact, cause these kinds of concerns to become reality, I would certainly try to address those. And I guess what I'm promising or suggesting today is that between now and the next stage of debate that we'll be getting together and talking about some of the concerns that have been brought today and try to narrow, again narrow this down to the point where not everybody can, just because they have overspent their budgets, can come in. You have to recognize there are...the way the bill is constructed, there are a number of situations that have to exist before they can even become eligible. And even after they become eligible, they have to be approved. So I'm willing to try to make...define this as narrowly as I can in order to specifically deal with an issue that I think needs to be dealt with, at the same time not make it so that it would be something that anyone who felt that they were you might say a little bit lax on how they use their funds could come in and ask to be reimbursed. Also I think that the fact we put the two-year sunset on it should, I think, make some people at least feel that this is not an ongoing thing, and after a couple of years, it can be addressed. It is going to sunset, and if they think