

February 26, 1996 LB 1248

can happen. There has to be approval of the risk manager for the claim. The risk manager is going to require documentation of all the expenses, going to require documentation of why it's abnormal, going to ask for documentation of the legal mandate, going to ask for documentation that the local government has exhausted other viable sources of revenue, and is going to ask for whatever additional documentation they see fit to require. Beyond that, of course, we have the two-year sunset that guarantees, in any event, that this will be a short-lived experiment, unless it proves to work well. And, further, I think that on Select File, if I'm anticipating everybody's reaction accurately, there will be three or four more limiting types of amendments that I think can put it in shape that will be agreeable to most all of us. Senator Wehrbein is concerned, for example, about the possibility of an entitlement being created. Well, it's easy for me to see how the language could be drafted a little bit differently to preclude that. That can be taken care of. Benefits from the Governor's emergency fund, well, that's...that's controlled by another section of statutes. Senator Wickersham's bill actually would control that, but that can be dealt with in terms of identifying which funds you're making claims to, and Senator Chambers has mentioned a couple of items, the abnormal expense, the essential services, both of those can be dealt with, if there is a good faith attempt to deal with them, and it sounds to me like everybody is willing to do that work and make that progress and get it reduced to where it's an experiment that may be something we're very pleased to have in our statutes eventually. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROPAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature. I discussed something other than what I started out to discuss originally, and that's to indicate why I have some hesitancy now about just saying that the bill should die and that I will do everything I can to kill it. I'm not going to do everything under the rules to kill it, which means I have no intention of offering delaying amendments or making motions to delay the bill. Senator Vrtiska has made no attempt to end debate or to avoid any question that has been asked, and I respect him for that, and I deeply appreciate it because I know how much this bill means to him, and he probably could have called the question and restricted debate, but I believe his intent is as serious as he states it to be, and I believe he's completely