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LB 179

SENATOR COORDSEN: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...cost \$13 million.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Raikes to speak to the motion to return.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise to oppose the motion to return, although I certainly appreciate the work that Senator Hilgert has put in and the interest and concern he's shown on this issue. I think Senator Wickersham has explained very well that within the context of the current law, ironically, one way to have handled this would be for the person that Senator Hilgert mentioned to have been actually less eligible for a homestead exemption during the time that person was below age 65, which certainly isn't a solution that he's interested in trying to achieve. He has, I think, worked, as I mentioned, worked very hard on this, and found out how difficult it is to come up with a solution that seems to make sense. And one of the difficulties when you try to address it is that you create more inequities or more equity issues with the fix, or a potential fix, or at least as many as you had when you started. In this particular case, one of the difficulties you encounter with the proposal Senator Hilgert has, if you have someone who unfortunately became disabled at age 64 years, 11 months, and you compare that with a person in a similar circumstance, but became disabled at age 65 years, 1 month, those people are treated differently. And that certainly is a problem. There is no intent to have these sorts of inequities. You can call them mistakes or oversights or misinterpretations. And Senator Hilgert I think fully understands these difficulties, and in fact has mentioned the possibility of, well, not the possibility, the fact of an interim study to look into this in great detail. So hopefully, with the interim study, Senator Hilgert will be able to claim success, even though not with this motion. So with that, thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Wehrbein, please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, I'm going to rise