

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 3, 2000 LB 482A, 482

CLERK: Madam President, LB 482A, by Senator Matzke. (Read title.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Matzke, on LB 482A.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. LB 480 (sic, LB 482) was advanced a few days ago from General File to Select File. It is the bill I introduced last year, at the request of the Governor, that provides for a payment to adoptive parents who adopt wards of the state. This bill was advanced without any significant opposition, I believe. This is the A bill that trails it. The statistics were furnished to you in a handout when LB 482 was before the Legislature. There are about 6,000 children who are wards of the state, approximately 200 to 300 a year are available for adoption. This bill provides for a \$1,000 a year payment to adoptive parents. Many of these children have special needs, special medical needs, special emotional problems, and there is a problem with finding adequate adoptive parents to adopt them. This bill would provide funds, extra resources for families willing to open their homes to adopt these children who are now state wards. Over time, hopefully, this bill would actually reduce expenses to the state because they would be adopted by families. The fiscal note on this is \$305,700 for the first year. There would be no expenditures during this year because the application has to be made for the funds at the end of the year, which would mean the first expenditure would come after January of the year 2001. The fiscal note is based upon payments in 300 adoptions, at \$1,000 an adoption, plus \$5,700 for temporary staff; so the fiscal note is \$305,700. The following year, of course, there...the...the...in FY '2001 to 2002, it would be two years, and so the appropriation for those years would double. I would ask the advancement of LB 482A.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Discussion on LB 482A? Seeing none, Senator Matzke, would you like to close? He waives closing. The question is the advancement to E & R Initial of LB 482A. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, please.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 482A.