

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

March 15, 2000 LB 1407

provide assistance to reimburse the work-related child care expenses of families with gross incomes of up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level, period. Then, in this Section 2 with reference to this study, it would say something like, well, in line 16 I would strike references to a 24-month period, in line...that would be 16; in line 17 I would strike the first "the" and insert "a"; and here's what I'm trying to get at. What would be left in Section 2 would be a study of the impact of imposing a time limitation and any cost sharing and the impact those kinds of decisions would have on the families affected. And a lot of this other verbiage I would just do away with. I think, as others have said, that if a study is needed to understand a given situation, it makes no sense to alter that situation as though you already understand it. The study brings the information. It cannot be argued that the persons receiving this assistance now don't need it. Nobody has argued that, that I've heard this morning. People have talked about being caught by surprise due to cost overruns. I'm not even talking about that. I want to focus on the existence of a problem which I believe everybody concedes is a reality. The next thing is to determine how we can protect these families that have been shown to need this aid because they're receiving it. I would want the bill in place to protect those families and hold them harmless, then go ahead and conduct the study. But in no way should we start imposing these limitations as though we know this is the right thing to do when the very second section points out that we don't know and that's why we have the study. So I believe Senator Beutler's insertion of the word "shall" is appropriate, but I think we ought to strike all the other language which is in addition to providing the aid for those families up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level, and I'm going to offer such an amendment. But I know others are going to offer various versions and that's why mine is drafted so that it would strike all of Section 1 and any amendments that have been added to it and put just this one principle--that the state shall provide that assistance up to the 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Then, the second part, I would have to rewrite that because, as written, it refers back to these limitations in Section 1, which I hope will be eliminated. So I'm going to start trying to rewrite Section 2 for my amendment. And understand this, brothers and sisters, I understand that the mere fact of my...