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security and the long-term dedication of the fund for specific purposes in the act. A cash fund could require legislative appropriation for disbursement from the fund. The amendment removes the language allocating 50 percent of Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund for legislative appropriation. It leaves decisions relating to increased legislative oversight under the act that are felt by this amendment. It provides a direct credit, this is really the crutch (sic) of the bill, of \$14 million in future IGT funds received on or after July 1 of 2000 to the Nursing Facilities Conversion Cash Fund, the way...I would anticipate that money to be in about October, for additional nursing home conversions. This issue doesn't have or didn't have a separate public hearing but several testifiers at the hearing raised this issue and requested additional funding for the conversions. The argument that the IGT funds are coming to the state because of publicly owned nursing homes is a compelling one and I hope you'll agree. Since this money is being provided, the committee amendment also deletes provisions relating to the use of funds in a Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund for nursing facility conversions. Originally, LB 1070 set up half of those...half of the money in Excellence in Health Care Trust Fund could be used for nursing facility conversions. That is removed. I have handed out a most recent report of the conversion program for your review and I want to emphasize this money isn't coming from the principal...or isn't coming from the principal in the Medicaid IGT funds but from future payments received in order to fund another round of grants in the program. There presently is about \$6 million. This \$14 million would take that up to \$20 million for another round of grants. You have...I've handed out the 1999 annual report of the Nursing Facility Conversion Grant Program. This is one of the things that the Legislature can really look back at and I...and truly say this did exactly what it said it was going to do. We took \$40 million and we provided that in the form of grants to nursing facilities, and those are all listed in here and, by the way, almost all of those are in rural areas, there was a round one and then there was a second round. But it has reduced the cost of Medicaid \$21 per day from a nursing home to assisted living unit. And also we found out that, in a study, that about 75 percent of the individuals in nursing homes could be in an assisted living unit, which I think generally they find more pleasing. So it's a program that has worked exactly the way it