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would go away, so would the program.

SENATOR STUHR: All right. But it is very encouraging that it might continue for a number of years. Also, do the teachers have to qualify or do they receive some training for this? Could you explain that a little bit?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Senator. They have to fill out an application, attend an orientation class, and then there is one or two training sessions throughout the year that they have to participate in, so they can learn about this service learning strategy, is what it is called.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay, great. And how many awards, I don't know if you covered that, how many awards each teacher might receive?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: A maximum of two, and that's \$4,725 at a shot, so that's \$9,750.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay, thank you. And I think one of the other exciting things is that as it is my understanding that no other state actually has this type of program. Is that correct?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That's...I believe it's correct. I heard Tom Miller say that at the hearing. Now I think there's a program in at least one other state that encourages paraprofessionals to go on and get more education and that kind of thing, but I believe that this would be the first program...it would be kind of a pilot project here in Nebraska.

SENATOR STUHR: So that's...I believe that's rather exciting for, you know, for Nebraska to have that opportunity to take the lead in having a program such as this that might address, and we know that we are having a shortage in teachers, and I really look at this as an opportunity to address that concern, and as we often say, another sort of tool in the tool box that will help Nebraska as a state. So, thank you very much.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I rise in support of Senator Schimek's amendment and thank her for