

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 15, 2004 LB 355

pass this amendment, we will collect, inadvertently, I believe, \$3.5 million from the elderly and the poor...I'm sorry, the elderly and the blind, that we did not intend ever to receive. It's simply because we missed these provisions which were in a different section of the federal tax code. The Revenue Department needs quick action, because we're looking to make this apply to the current tax year. In fact, this amendment makes these changes retroactive to the 2003 tax year. And as you know, that tax year, you're just starting now to collect your W-2s and all the data necessary to do your taxes. You want forms that reflect the appropriate standard deductions for the elderly and for the blind. This amendment will allow us to do so. I ask for the adoption of AM2162, the passage of LB 355, and moving along in as expedited a fashion as possible with this measure. Thank you, Mr. Clerk, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Landis. Further discussion? Seeing none, the Chair recognizes Senator Landis to close.

SENATOR LANDIS: By the way, Paul Hartnett reminds us that he is elderly, and this will apply to him. I wonder if that means he has to declare a conflict of interest here, file one of those darn forms. If I'd only gone to the ethics seminar, I would have known the answer to that question. (Laughter) But of course, since I'm not as elderly as Paul, I don't have to file a form. So it's his problem, not mine. Just to summarize, there will be an unintentional tax increase in the heads of the elderly or the blind if we don't catch this improvement in their standard deduction. It was intended by the feds. I think it was intended by what we did. We just missed it because it was in a different section of law when we wrote last year's bill at the end of the session. I ask for the adoption of AM2162.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Landis. The question is the adoption of AM2162 to LB 355. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Landis' amendment.