

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

March 27, 2006 LB 990

program if the person that's deceased would have qualified. The fourth aspect is that the beginning farmer is required to take a management course so that they had some good knowledge on how to manage a farm, how to manage your finances, and it did not allow them to get any reimbursement for that cost. So now the beginning farmer can be reimbursed for the cost of the management course that they take. The Beginning Farmer Board does have a set of programs that do qualify, if they've gone to college already, that would qualify. But it would only qualify the reimbursement on the year that they took the course. So if somebody went to college for a few years and came back and took part in this program, that would not qualify. So it will reimburse the beginning farmer for the amount of what the management course cost them, not to exceed \$500,000. I think those four aspects are what we're trying to do to enhance this. In the fiscal note, the fact that it's 5 percent up to 10 percent is going to double it, and the fact that there will be more qualifying. So we're thinking that even with these new incentives in here, that it would only be about half of what the original \$1 million was. Instead \$65,000, we think it could go up to about \$450,000, but still considerably less than the first...the bill that was passed and we anticipated that it would cost. So these are the basic aspects of this, and I'd like to give the balance of my time to Senator Wehrbein--it was his bill and I think it was a good bill--and let him make some comments if he'd like. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I will be brief. Senator Kremer described the bill very well and I also want to express my appreciation to the board, the Young Farmer Board that has done a lot of work on this over the last three or four years, have taken their obligations and job very seriously, and have come up with these suggested amendments that I think will improve the bill, make it more usable. It is gradually catching on. I think there's about 50 that have participated in this if my memory is right. They do have an annual report that you all get if you want to know more about it. But I encourage your support of this. I'm pleased to have Senator Kremer put this on it. We drafted...we worked on