

Coordsen. (Read title.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 757 implies moving the Workers' Compensation Court from a General Fund agency to a Cash Fund agency, paid for with an assessment against workers' compensation premiums. One of its long-term effects will be to provide some benefits to the current budget problem. The A bill contemplates receiving a portion of this money for the last part of the fiscal year of '93. So, to take up some of the costs of 757, there's a \$90,000 General Fund appropriation, and then there's the utilization of about \$600,000 from the money that will be coming in from the Cash Fund. Then in the '93-94 we've moved into the Cash Fund situation, and that sum is \$2,147,000. It provides for the payment of per diems and salaries, and it also provides for money transferred from the General Fund to the Workplace Safety Consultation Program, this is part of the safety effort. But this too is moving from a General Fund to a Cash Fund situation because there will be a special assessment for safety consultations. And in the following biennium, that \$580,000 cost will be borne by a Cash Fund responsibility based on an assessment against the premiums. I would urge the advancement of 757A. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to support the advancement of 757A. Increased funding for the court that is provided for in 757 basically is derived from an increased involvement in a one-call phone and a mediation service type where questions...it's not...I guess mediation would be the wrong term, but a process where questions that an injured worker might have could be answered, that it's a system that is currently not allowed to the court. I would encourage the advancement of this bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Anyone else wishing to discuss the advancement of LB 757A? Seeing none, Senator Landis, do you wish to close? Waives closing. We'll now vote on the advancement of LB 757A. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the advancement of