

centers have. This statutory allowed amount is \$15 per day for the first 30 days and \$3 per day thereafter. The Psychiatric Institute was charging prior to the Attorney General's opinion 29% of their average daily costs which is \$89. This is comparable to about what the average cost is for the regional centers. But in any event, this will permit the patients that are assigned to the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute to be paid from county funds the same as if they were sent to the regional center and there is some equity. Those of you from Douglas County, obviously most of these patients come from Douglas or the eastern end of the state by location. The county, I think, has refused to pay what they have been billed to date because of the, because they were not required to do so because of the Attorney General's opinion. I think there is equity if you would introduce the bill. Again, there will be a hearing on it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly did you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, a question of Senator Warner. Jerry, is it necessary for the counties to authorize services from the regional centers or the NPI before they have a responsibility?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Kelly, as I understand the law, if a patient is admitted even voluntarily to the regional center that the county is automatically billed and automatically must pay.

SENATOR KELLY: Then we can't expect any relief from that in your bill?

SENATOR WARNER: This would not provide any relief from that. What this does though, it requires the counties to pay... there's about 270,000 deficit being requested at the Psychiatric Institute because of the Attorney General's opinion that they aren't being able to bill since that opinion came out. What we're attempting to do and they were billing higher level than is proposed here. All we're saying is that if the billing is to occur, the dollar amount should be the same at the Psychiatric Institute as it is at the regional centers. Now if we want to adjust for everybody, that we could do but it ought to be the same everywhere.

SENATOR KELLY: Thank you very much Senator Warner. I would support entering the bill because we want to change some of that.

PRESIDENT: The question is this request of Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: We'll have a new bill drafted, Mr. President, and treat all counties the same as Douglas County wanted to be treated.

PRESIDENT: Report the vote.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 13 nays.

PRESIDENT: The request is denied.

CLERK: Read LB 526. Mr. President, we have an explanation of vote regarding Request No. 844. Had I been present, I would