

CLERK: Read title to LB 92. The bill was originally read on January 6, 1977 and was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee. The bill was reported to the floor as indefinitely postponed. The body reconsidered that action, Mr. President. It was replaced on General File on February 16 of 1977. I now have amendments offered by Senator Goodrich. They can be found in the Journal on page 274.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I move the adoption of the amendments. What I wanted to do was adopt the amendments so we'll know what form of the bill we're going to be talking about. The amendments themselves spread the amount of the cost of the bill over a period of six years. For example, right now the counties pay 20 percent of the cost of medical treatment for the welfare patients. The state pays about 22 percent. The federal government pays 58 percent. The bill would...the whole purpose of the bill is to transfer the counties share of medical payments over to the state. All but four states have done this already. The only states that have an appreciable amount left with the counties are Nebraska, California, New Hampshire and New York. All the rest of the states have recognized the fact that the state and the federal government makes the rules and regulations, the counties don't have anything to do with it. All the counties do is administer the program. We are not touching the administration of the program at all. We are leaving it with the counties. The state, since it is going to be in partnership with the federal government on making the rules and regulations, the state should take over the counties share of the medical payments. This amendment would reduce the counties share by three percent per year over a period of six years. Three times eight is 18... three times six, rather, is 18 percent. We would leave two percent with the counties. The other 18 percent would be transferred to the state over a period of six years, at the rate of three percent per year. That is the amendment itself. I would ask for the adoption of the amendment. Then we can discuss the bill itself.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Goodrich, under this program, this Medicaid program as it exists now, where do the people come from who are eligible to be assisted in Douglas County? What county are they residents of, or which counties?

SENATOR GOODRICH: All counties of the state.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Can come to Douglas County?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, they can all come.... In fact, a lot of them do come to Douglas County. If you want to analyze the actual roles, they are people that have come to Douglas County because of the fact...the facilities that are there to meet the needs that they have.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So they don't have to be residents of Douglas County. Is that correct?

SENATOR GOODRICH: No. This is statewide.