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SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So if Medicaid covers it, I assume that there is both an income and an assets test in order for Medicaid to cover it. Would that be correct?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, that is correct. Okay.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) On the advancement of LB 287, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Thompson, could I ask you a couple questions?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Thompson, would you yield?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I will yield.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Thompson, I was reviewing the bill and, as I...and correct me if I'm wrong, as I understand it, it's sort of a first come, first serve?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes. The department currently runs the renal program and, when it runs, it sets guidelines that try to fit within the amount of money that they have, and when they run out of money they run out of money. And so for this program they would also have to try to make it last and maybe it won't cover a hundred percent of what a person needs, but they could, through their rules and regulations, set it up so that it goes as far as it can.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I guess that's the part that I'm having difficulty understanding. You say they'd pay a part of it, but how do you know how much expenditures you're going to have throughout a year? In other words, if I go in at the first of the year with a heart transplant, I can get help, but if I go in in December of the year there may not be any money. And I'm trying to figure out how do you...how do you make it fair for everybody who's going to want to access these funds? I don't...that's the part I don't understand.