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LB 841, 1224

intergovernmental IGT transfer funds that we have been using for a number of years. And what those IGT funds did was provide almost a quarter of a billion dollars to the state from the federal government to use for various purposes. Basically, LB 1224 puts a provider tax on the ICFMRs, and that includes both the not-for-profit and our one state ICFMR, which is the Beatrice State Developmental Center, and then with the approval of CMS gives those tax dollars back to the state with additional matching funds which will enable the state to provide additional services for people with mental retardation in the state of Nebraska. It breaks it down in the language of the bill so that 66 percent of those dollars that come back go to the ICFMRs, that's both the not-for-profits and the state institution, and 34 percent would be dedicated to community-based services. Quite honestly, this was kind of like receiving manna from heaven or something similar to that to be able to find dollars that we feel that we can access in these tight budgetary times. I know this is a simplistic explanation and I would be open to answer any questions. I think that we have concurrence on the part of everyone involved that this is a very positive thing. And I would ask for your approval of AM2965 to LB 841, and I certainly would take questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. You heard the opening on AM2965 offered by Senator Byars to LB 841. Now we're open for discussion on that motion. Senator Bourne, on AM2965.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I do have some questions. I did support the bill in the Revenue Committee and I'm comparing this amendment to the one the Revenue Committee put out and it's a little bit different. And so I just want some clarification. I did have a bill similar to this that related to a tax on nursing homes that tried to enhance the federal contribution, Senator Byars, and there was some fatal flaw in that, I guess, and I don't quite understand it at all. But what I want to do is look at the language on page 2. And, well, first, before I do that, Senator Byars, how many...if Senator Byars would yield to a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, would you respond?