

amendments are adopted. Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, LB 39 is a bill that many of you have heard and discussed before, but beings we do have some new Senators this year, I will attempt to explain it. For some reason or other when major welfare programs came into the State of Nebraska some years ago, Nebraska set up their system so that the counties paid twenty percent of what we call the "medical vendor payments" with county money. As time went on, we found out that Nebraska was one of the few states that required counties to pay any appreciable amount of the medical vendor payments. So back in 1979 we passed a bill, 138, which in its original form would have done what we are trying to do now, get the payments down to ten percent. But as the Legislature progressed two years ago, it was decided that that was too big a jump to go from twenty percent to ten percent. So a deal was made whereby we would try it for two years at taking off two percent each year, that's not exactly the right language, but we went from twenty to eighteen percent in '80, yes in '80, and we are going from eighteen percent to sixteen percent in '81. This bill, LB 39, would just continue that process. It would take it down in '81 to fourteen percent, in '82 to twelve percent, and in '83 to the ten percent. This whole problem really, to my notion, has been misplaced all these years because counties have very little to say about the programs. The programs that are accepted by the state are accepted at state level and the counties have no authority to change the program in any way. In fact, in many counties the Welfare Department, State Welfare Department, even pays for the space that they take up in the courthouse. So it seemed to me for a long time that we should not be saddling the counties with a great amount of this cost. Now, of course, there is some argument as to whether it should all be taken off, and we are certainly not trying to do that this time. I do understand there are several bills floating around that would take more than the ten...take it down further than ten percent. But I am interested this morning in getting your support for LB 39 so that we can continue to take off the same amount that we have been taking off each year for the past two years, and take it down to ten percent by 1983. I believe this is only fair. We did go over and visit with the Governor about it and we certainly don't have his blessing at this time but we don't have his veto either. He has said to bring it up with the rest of the bills that carry an A bill with them and that he would certainly look at it. So that is what we are trying to do this mornning. I think