

April 28, 1981

LB 404

SENATOR HABERMAN: Okay so that I understand it then, the cost is going to go up 2 and the cost to the local government is going to go up a percent also. Is that correct?

SENATOR FOWLER: If there are going to be any additional services, obviously there are going to have to be additional costs.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Fowler, and maybe the amendments have changed this but on what would be page one of the fiscal notes it says 84% of the cost to providing services in the area as I understand the state will do that, and that will be federal funds plus the balance in general funds. If sufficient state funds are not available to pay the entire 84% then general funds will be prorated among the areas. Now did the amendments do anything with that part of it?

SENATOR FOWLER: The amendment changes the match. The Public Health and Welfare Committee reduced the state and federal's share down to 75% and increased the local contribution plus tightened up the definitions of what the local contribution would be so that it shifted the basis. It still allows that if there is not full funding from the state, we can prorate our share across the area agencies. So if we choose not to appropriate the necessary match then the programs, the aid to the area agencies would be scaled back.

SENATOR COPE: In other words, the 75% then is not mandatory.

SENATOR FOWLER: It is the goal and if we do not fully fund that then the bill provides for proration.

SENATOR COPE: And this is agreeable with the local government as I understand in this letter from Jack Mills. Is that correct?

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes, the county, if these amendments are adopted, the county officials will support the bill. They supported the bill in the original form. They were concerned about the committee amendments, not with regards to the funding but some other things. My amendments to the committee