

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think we should wake up and have a look at this bill. Senator Warner brought to your attention 249 which did go in the opposite direction. Now we have been talking the last ten, fifteen minutes about a mechanism. What would we mean by a mechanism? That means, state, we are going to tell you counties what you are going to do. I have been in that position before and as brought out a minute ago, what are you going to do with the 7% lid when you jump this amount from an 84-16% or 86-14, whichever it is, and it has been stated both ways, when we say to the county, you have been paying 14 or 16% and now you do pay 25%? Secondly, this mechanism can say to the counties who have not wished to have these programs, you are now going to have this program. Now let's touch a little bit on the mechanism as we set up the commission. At the first part of this year when we were having a problem in the western end of the state I went to the Governor and said, Governor, why can't we do anything? He said, I can't do anything because my hands are tied. The members of the commission have been appointed and they run the show and the Governor could not do anything and this, to me, seems like this tightens up this mechanism as we are talking about so that the state has absolute control and when the federal funds go down, we, the state say, no, we are going to keep these programs up and state, we are not going to necessarily fund that A program as we were talking about a minute ago but, counties, you are going to pick up that other ten or fifteen or twelve percent, whatever it is. Now, Senator Wesely and Senator Fowler, if this is not true then get up and say it is not true. Let's say whether we are going to fund those A bills. Up until a couple of years ago we would put bills across over there. Then we wouldn't fund the A bill and people out in the state would think we had done a great thing but we didn't put any money where our mouth was so nothing happened. We do not do that any more. When we put a bill over there we put the A bill right with it and if this Legislature is going to pay a certain amount, then let's say we are going to pay it. If we are going to say, county, we are seeing that you pay the amount, then let's say it here on the floor that we are telling counties, you are going to pay it. If, we, the Legislature, intend to pay this deficit that we are talking about that may be coming from the federal, then let's say it on this floor. Let's make it a part of the record that we are mandating, counties, you are going to pay that or we are saying, no, counties, we the Legislature are going to make up this deficit. Let's say it the way it is, Senators Wesely and Fowler. Let's not namby-pamby and talk about mechanisms and things of this nature which don't really mean much. The last thing, if we do have a 7% lid, if we keep it, where is the county going to get it? If they are going to get it some