

face now at the state, local and federal level and with the committee amendments 404 becomes primarily an agreement, a working out of the relationships between the state and the local governments with regards to these services. It is a partnership that has never been put in writing, never been put in state law and Senator Cullan feels the need to do so. For this reason, with these amendments, he would be supportive of LB 404.

SPEAKER MARVFL: Senator Wesely, do you wish to close on the committee amendments and then we will go to those who wish to speak...go ahead.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, I don't think this was explained as well as it could be and I apologize for that. I think that a lot of the controversy came from the match and the formula and all that. What we were trying to do is for the first time, with the committee amendments, come up with a match that the state could participate in. Now they don't have any sort of mechanism at all to participate but that does not mean they have to. It just means that they could and there would be a formula there to follow if they wanted to. You should also keep in mind, Senator Kahle asked some questions on local match. One example, I just talked to somebody from an area Agency on Aging. They put in about 34% and the federal money comes in and puts in the rest of the amount and out of that 34% they said that 30% came from the elderly themselves, that they were contributing in a small way to help support some of these programs and that it added up to a substantial amount of the cost. So this match that we talked about isn't really local counties putting in tax dollars as much as it is older people chipping in a little bit to help out with these services and that is all we are talking about. They are already doing it. The system we have now is the money comes in from the federal government. It goes to the state Agency on Aging. They distribute it to the local area Agency on Agings. Then they use that money and supplement it as best they can without any sort of match formula. They put in what they can. The elderly contribute a little bit, maybe some local county money but not too much and then that is essentially the way it goes. Under this system we again will get the federal money as a start. Then the state would decide how much we wanted to mix in and that would account for whatever 75% would be and the locals would contribute the 25% which is essentially about what they are putting in now, maybe more in some cases. So it is not really a greater burden on the counties. I doubt if you will see any increase in local tax support because as I said, the elderly are contributing a major proportion of that local match. All we are doing is putting in that extra element that if the state wants to put in some money they can and that is a choice we will