

people that needed that assistance but what we are saying is although that in time hopefully it would lead to efficiencies, we also want to balance that off with the fact that maybe a county would like to very much keep their office open and so we have a veto power for the local county board to say, no, state, you have taken over the welfare system but we are not going to let you take over our office. We are going to keep our office open in this county and thus, the local county board could oppose that effort. Again, we do a number of things with the bill that I think improve it but essentially the main thrust of the bill which is to take from the county to the state, total administration and responsibility for our welfare system is intact. We try and do these different things to delay implementation, to delay the state taking over the cost and to allow the local veto of losing an office in your county, all these different things we are trying to smooth out that transition and make it a little easier and a little slower. Those are the committee amendments. I would sure offer to answer any questions you have. I move for their adoption.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, again, I guess, Senator Wesely, I have a question. As I understand the committee amendments the state assumes responsibility for the operation as of 1983 but you will continue county contribution beyond that and perhaps you have already discussed it, but my question is how do you get around the constitutional provisions of the...similar to what happened to the community colleges where I assume that the bill now does, designates this as a state purpose for which we are requiring a local mill levy which I assume we cannot do. Maybe it is not a problem with it, I don't know at this point.

SENATOR WESELY: That is a good question, Senator Warner, and we did discuss it in committee and found that perhaps, well there may be a problem there. I don't think so though. I think it is a state function. Essentially that is what we have now. The counties, essentially, administer through their offices the welfare program although the state has the total authority on who is eligible and sets up the guidelines and really provides the oversight and final authority in this area. So the change is one of administration that I think is going to be, I think, a little clearer line of responsibility but we also realize the fact that the state just can assume the total expenditure that the counties are paying for now that quickly, so the transition may be a problem, I grant you, but I think that is something we can sit down and discuss. But our concern