

April 28, 1981

LB 522

there are enough of you in this room that would want to go into the future that far and about all I am going to do now is say that I think that the county should have some relief from this so-called burden and that if you cannot see your way clear to vote for this bill, hopefully you will be able to go for LB 39 when it is read. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, you are presenting the committee amendments, right?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Would you like me to close? Okay, once again these committee amendments do a number of things, one, delay for another year the date in which this transfer to the state would take place. Number two, it would say that the counties would still be responsible for general assistance. That function would not shift to the state as in the original bill. Number three, we phase out the county contribution to Medicaid at 2% a year rather than take it over immediately in 1982 which is in the bill now and, then, fourth, it would say that the County Welfare Office could not be closed without permission of the local county board and I think Senator Johnson made it clear to me that you ought to realize that almost all county welfare employees are considered state employees and are under the State Merit System. So essentially what we have is a state welfare system but it is under the guise of a state-county system that has always had a problem with clarity of responsibility and lines of authority. We are just making it much clearer that it is a state office, it is a state responsibility and essentially that is what we have. We are just clarifying that, and the committee amendments do what I just said. They do a number of things to the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? We are voting on the committee amendments to LB 522. Senator Wesely, what would you like to do?

SENATOR WESELY: How many members are absent, Mr. Speaker, or, the Clerk? There are not twenty-seven...

SPEAKER MARVEL: We have one that is excused. We have one that is excused, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: It looks like we are not moving too fast. I would like to ask for a Call of the House at this point.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Shall the House go under Call? All those