

same services that are now provided under the county for the medical indigent program. The concern was that if you didn't exactly match up, that the state took over the program but didn't cover all the services, that individuals would be left in limbo and possibly the county would continue to have responsibility for those unidentified services. So the intent here is to provide for everything that now the counties are providing for the state would also provide for under this program. The payment rates would be set at the Medicaid rate but also the Department of Social Services could contract for the services under a different rate but, essentially, would start at the Medicaid rate. The resource limits that are provided for in the bill which currently call for \$1,500 of automobile equity and \$10,000 of house equity would be stricken and the Department of Social Services would set the resource limits, of course, with the intent to not deviate much from those original figures in the bill but, obviously, some flexibility is needed and the department requested that and the bill under these committee amendments would provide for that. Another committee amendment would deal with the fact that psychiatric services would be provided and then, finally, the funds would be distributed on claims received rather than services provided, and the Prompt Payment Act would not apply to this problem. All these amendments, I think, deal with the concerns of the department and I would ask for the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, those in favor of the adoption of the committee amendments to 187 please vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. To the bill, Mr. Clerk, anything? Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, LB 187 is a carry-over piece of legislation. It was suggested years ago. It was encouraged during Vard Johnson's time in the Legislature, and this morning we passed around to you a letter that he sent in the absence of him being here. He gives a one-page overview of why he believes, and I believe, that this is an important and unmet need, and an important responsibility, and a realistic and