

would provide whether or not you could, even though you were indigent, be reimbursed for this program. You can, in fact, be poor and not be eligible for this program. There is criteria for eligibility which could, in some cases, even though you were poor preclude you from being...from the hospitals or the physicians being reimbursed for your care. However, however, we estimate that there are probably about 3,500 people actually in the state that probably could be eligible for these kinds of programs. Please understand that if you go into that hospital and you are poor, but you are at that time eligible for Medicare, for Medicaid, if you are a child and eligible for one of the children's health programs, you would not be eligible. If you had any kind of third party reimbursement of any kind, you would not be eligible. If you were out of a job, you were laid off of your work, and you were on your health care, company's health care program because you can stay on (interruption)...

SENATOR HARTNETT: I am none of that, I am none of that.

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, you would simply be cared for, and you were eligible (interruption)...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Then under the bill, where would the bill go?

SENATOR LYNCH: The hospital would provide the information they would gather after you were treated and released, hopefully in good shape, to the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services, upon receiving that information from the hospital, would determine your eligibility and then put that hospital on the list of people to be reimbursed from this fund for that care for you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Is there a cap on how much the hospitals can charge?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, the rates are rates now established and very similar to Medicare and Medicaid rates.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay, thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Before going to the next speaker, the Chair is pleased to announce that Senator Jenny Robak has a guest under the south balcony, Ruby Beckman from Columbus. Ruby, would you please take a bow. Thank you. And also as guests of Senator