

about 100 million dollars is state funds. We have in place a program that recognizes the needs of those people who are not eligible for Medicare, at the same time we should not, I think, admit on the one hand that Robin Hood exists without recognizing the fairness of reimbursing those 75 percent of the hospitals in the areas outside of Omaha and Lincoln that are providing this care, and the 20 percent of the hospitals in the Lincoln and Omaha area who are also doing the same thing. It's not fair for them to assume this cost and, I'm sure, not recover all of it, but do the best they can to cope with it. This is the kind of responsibility that should be ours. There is a cap, please remember, at 7.2 million dollars. We can spend no more than that. We don't have to spend that much. And so you understand, it would be spent on a quarterly basis through the year. One-fourth of that 7.2 would be eligible for reimbursement at the end of the first three months. If, in fact, the request for those funds did not exceed that quarterly amount, the balance could be carried over. And everybody who applied for reimbursement would get what they requested, obviously based on the eligibility of that bill. In the second quarter if, in fact, the requests exceeded the quarterly amount, then everybody would be paid at the end of that quarter based on and in proportion to the amount of money available for that quarter only. There would be nothing, obviously, that would be transferred from the second quarter to the third quarter, and the unreimbursed portion of their requests for the second quarter would not be transferred to the third quarter. I thought I should explain that to help you understand that even though you may have concerns about this, remember, that in fact it is a cap, a sacred cap, I guess, and should not be violated, and I thought you should understand the mechanics of how it would work. Basically, that's the amendment. I would ask for your support.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Is there discussion on the Lynch amendment? Senator Korshoj, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker, members, I don't remember, Dan, I've got a question I'd like you to briefly answer, if you could.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, would you respond?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, sir.