

after the battles that we've had in the past with Senator Abboud and the Douglas County Board and others, this bill is a much different version of this approach. What they talk about here is that general assistance individuals will be given job training, they will be worked with in a positive fashion to deal with whatever their circumstance is to help meet their needs and obligations, to get on their feet. And then after that training program, they're going to be given three months to try and find a job, and then after that period of time some community service work could be required. And even then there is a maximum number of hours and a restriction on where that work would occur. So I have a much different feeling about the legislation and did not oppose it this year. The one thing, the reason I did not support it was my own fear is that the counties, because of their past history in this in some cases, could still abuse this training. What they could do is an individual could come in and the county, as their job training program is not defined in the bill currently, could simply have the individual sit down and spend a couple of hours talking to them about how to apply for a job, or maybe just talk to them about how they should think better of themselves and go out and get a job and quit loafing around, and just some sort of...they could consider that approach as an attempt at a training exercise, and then send them off. And then in three months, without really having worked with them, stick them into some sort of work situation that is not a positive one. Now I have to tell you that I sense a whole different attitude from Douglas County, and I don't expect that, under the current individuals involved, the administration, the board, that that would be the approach taken there. But I can't say that the future would hold the same, or other counties may likewise have the same viewpoint. So rather than take the chance that what looks like a good bill and a good solution to a long-standing problem...taken on faith. I'm offering this language, and I've talked to Senator Abboud, and he's adopt...accepted it, would clarify that job training program shall mean vocational training in technical job skills and equivalent knowledge. Now that doesn't spell out how many hours it has to be. It doesn't spell out in great detail what we're talking about. But it means we want something substantive, we want something substantial. We don't want something just a couple of hours, or couple of afternoons, we're talking about giving these people some real skill, some real ability to get up on their feet. And the county making that effort should be enough to, I think, warrant, in a few months if you're unable to get work, the opportunity to have community