

that for you very briefly. The committee amendments attempt to address some of those concerns that were raised with the bill, one of those is that we had originally talked about a new department being created to serve persons with developmental disabilities. Concern was expressed about the cost of that new department. If you look at the fiscal note you'll see that it is quite an expensive proposition, and so that was dropped from the bill through the committee amendments that are being offered instead of division of developmental disabilities as established within the Department of Public Institutions. Another item that is of concern has been the level of county contribution to the system that we have in place. As most of you know, we have six regions in the state that are to serve our individuals with mental retardation. Those six regions, if you looked at the different materials we passed out, have varying degrees of financial support from the counties to help pay for these services. Some counties are paying a relatively reasonable amount of money to the cost of these services, and others are paying an intolerably low amount. Region VI, for instance, is paying over 11 percent of the cost of services, while Region II is paying 2.4 percent of the cost of services. In an attempt to equalize the amount of contributions by counties the original bill and the committee amendments did set a fee structure for counties that would be increased over a period of time to \$3, \$5, \$7, and \$10. The committee amendments eliminated the 7 and 10 dollar increases, and left the 3 and 5 dollar increases, which will be further amended by an amendment that is pending, and I'll get into that later. We did talk about an entitlement for individuals with developmental disabilities. The committee amendment would delay that until 1994; pending amendment will completely eliminate that entitlement, though, making it the intent of the Legislature to eventually entitle these individuals to services. And we also clarify, through the committee amendments, what exactly we mean by developmental disability. And I'd like to go into a lot more with the legislation, but I think perhaps it would be best to go to the amendment to the committee amendment at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. We do have amendments to the committee amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Wesely, Rasmussen, Dierks, Schellpeper, Beyer, Bernard-Stevens, and Byars would move to amend the committee amendments. Page 1893 of the Journal, Senator.