

taken care of. Senator Chambers is absolutely right, the poor you will always have with you. And the county will still have the requirement, as you point out in that section of statute, to levy their first tax for that purpose.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I think the interesting part that I wanted to mention while I was...while I have the floor is that serving on the county board for many years, and, obviously, the way we did it was anticipate it, and that is all you can do, based on the rules and regulations and the criteria set out, you have to figure out about how much money you are going to set out for that purpose and that is what we've done based on the.. based on the rules or the requirements that a person has to come under in order to be eligible. And I would assume that the counties, based on past experience, have set, basically, their own rules in regards to the amount of money that they would provide outside of...we are not talking, really, about the general assistance except for medical, surgical, and hospital benefits, isn't that correct?

SENATOR HALL: (Mike off) Senator Vrtiska, Senator Chambers is absolutely right, and I know I touched on it. I was being somewhat modest but not all that modest. It does apply to general assistance as well. It is in two different sections, one is the medical, and one is the general.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank...Senator Vrtiska, are you...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, for the minute I am through because I...

SENATOR CROSBY: Okay, you have about one minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: No, that's okay. Thanks.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in support of Senator Hall's amendment for the reasons I think have been very well articulated by both Senator Hall and Senator Chambers, and with that, I would give my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Will. Madam President,