

more careful about spending their money than a government agency would be and I support Senator Bohlke's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Bohlke wishes to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 25 fourth graders and their teacher here from Watson Elementary. They're in the north balcony. Will you all stand up and be recognized, please. Thank you. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members. Senator Wesely, I have some questions I'd like to ask.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Certainly.

SENATOR STUHR: Could you explain a little bit more on the Department of Aging. Who actually would be doing the screening? There's a list of other agencies also listed. Could it possibly be someone from a local hospital?

SENATOR WESELY: Right. It doesn't have...you're talking about government bureaucrats. It doesn't require that they be a government bureaucrat. They can be the local Area on Aging. They can contract with the hospital to do it. They can contract with some other entity. It isn't clear, it isn't concise exactly how it gets done, but just so something gets worked out.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. I also have another question in regards to the screening. Does this actually mean everyone or just those that would be planning to go on Medicaid? I mean this does not include all, or anyone that would enter a nursing home, it would be only those that would be possibly eligible.

SENATOR WESELY: Well that would be the determination as the discharge would be decided and would be thought that they would go into a nursing home. There would be a quick reference to see whether or not they would...I think you could find out quickly, their income and asset level and determine whether or not they would be within a year, Medicaid eligible. Then you'd screen whether or not that's the appropriate placement or whether there would be a better alternative out there.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. Then I have another question on that last