

and 7, it would strike the language of Senator Hall's amendment. And I'm going to show you, while that amendment is coming round, if any of you want to look on page 6, in lines 26 and 27, then go to the top of page 7 to lines 1 and 2, to show you something very peculiar about the drafting of this language in addition to its purpose. The language says, any person who is or becomes ineligible for other medical assistance programs or general assistance, due to his or her own actions of inactions, or due to the termination of benefits period, shall also be ineligible for medical services from the county. Because loss of medical benefits and general assistance benefits, the two are separated by "or", this is the way it would read. Any person who is or becomes ineligible for general assistance due to his or her own actions or inactions, and so forth, shall be ineligible for medical services from the county. It's very inartfully drafted but even if it was correctly drafted, I would be in opposition to it. I thought, in speaking the way I did on General File, my words would be construed to be taken as opposing the amendment. I wound up voting against it. Senator Vrtiska stood up and said he had intended to vote for the amendment but after hearing me he decided to vote for it or vice versa. He was unsure about voting for it, but anyway he can speak for himself if he wants to comment on that. The purpose of this is to strike this language. A person can lose assistance at the state level for not cooperating with some of these things that we heard about earlier for having stayed on aid for two years, and I don't know if there are other ways that these benefits can be lost. But the counties should not be relieved of their primary responsibility. So, by this time, the amendment should be on your desk, and this is the way it would read. Amending the E & R amendments, which are identified as AM7123, on page 6, strike lines 17 through 27, and on page 7, lines 1 through 25. By doing that, all of the amendment that Senator Hall had offered the other day and we adopted, to my shock and chagrin, would be stricken from this bill and the counties, once again, would be that fall-back position for the poor which they were envisioned as being and which the statutes do indicate is their responsibility. I ask that you will support the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall, followed by Senators Wesely, Vrtiska and Abboud.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment but I did not object to the substitution which probably could have kept the measure from