

coming up before the bill gets voted on one way or another this evening. Because I talked to Senator Chambers and said go ahead and take a run at it, if you can pull it out, that's the way to deal with it. There was other attempts or suggestions on how to address this issue, maybe to change the wording a little bit, make it permissive instead of mandatory, but clearly the best way to deal with this issue is to take another vote on it and that's all the Chambers amendment amounts to. If the amendment fails, I would guess that it would stay in and become part of the legislation. The reason it was introduced, and it's no more, Senator Chambers, inartfully drafted than most of my amendments so I don't know why you point that out, but the reason for the amendment was to say that if the position of the state is that we want to see welfare or assistance, whether they be in the area of medical services or benefit for anything else in terms of those that are truly destitute, if the state takes the position that there is a point in time after an individual has been on those services that they have run their account dry, then it ought to apply to any other subdivision of government as well. And that's where the amendment said that once an individual has hit that point they cannot, at that time, then go to the county and ask the county to pick up those costs. It addressed the issue that I heard a lot about this year and many people have talked about, both at the state, the federal and the local level, in terms of unfunded mandates if the...and, in effect, what you're talking about is an unfunded mandate. If you say that we are no longer going to pick up the costs for these individuals, they will then fall to the next level of government as we often see when the federal government does those types of things to states. That was the purpose behind the amendment. It continues to be the purpose behind the amendment. If it comes out, I won't attempt to put it back in, but it does address an issue that I know was an issue to Douglas County. Senator Chambers is accurate in that that was the reason that I offered it and I stated that on General File. I...given the opportunity without objection to try and take it out and will live with whatever the will of the body is, but I don't intend to support the amendment.

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

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members, we spent a lot of time on this issue on General File and maybe some remember, maybe some don't, but I'm glad Senator Chambers is raising the issue