

January 26, 1996 LB 256

various state institutions within the county, they seem to have more than their share of criminal proceedings involving competency issues. A few years ago, there was an individual from York who murdered his wife. He was taken to the Regional Center for examination. After he was found incompetent to stand trial, York County continued to pay his maintenance costs. While he was there, this individual strangled his roommate. Because that incident happened in Lancaster County, now Lancaster County is paying for those maintenance costs, strictly because that's where the incident happened. These costs are devastating to county government. There is no way to anticipate them, and there's no way to budget for them. This is why this particular bill was introduced, to clarify who will have responsibility for these costs. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. For discussion on LB 256, Senator Hillman. Senator Hillman. Senator Hillman, your light is first on...oh.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Senator Hudkins, I have a couple of questions that I would like to have you respond to, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Yes.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Currently, whenever someone is committed to a facility for the care of mental illness by a county, is it always to a state institution?

SENATOR HUDKINS: Yes, I believe it is.

SENATOR HILLMAN: So that the county cannot go to a local provider, a private provider that could offer that service for the same amount that the state would do it, but they still couldn't place that person in a local facility, they would have to go to a state facility?

SENATOR HUDKINS: That is the information that I've received.

SENATOR HILLMAN: And so if the state takes this over, it wouldn't make any difference. They would still be in a state institution, or would the state, by any chance, contract with a local provider to provide that service? What I'm looking for to