

investigate it some more because potentially if the use increases, the use is broadened by other counties, two other counties, and legitimately so, then what starts out to look like a two or three hundred thousand dollar issue at this point could well double in two or three years because of increased use that we are not anticipating. I simply wanted to call that to the body's attention. I do not have Senator Beutler's amendment in front of him...me. If it was as he verbally described it, I think I would be willing to look very carefully at that. I am not sure, Senator Beutler, I believe what you are saying is the county would continue to pay a base rate of \$15 a day and the state would pick up the rest, so it's a partial funding. Is that what your amendment does?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, would you be interested, I will read the statute to you. Maybe it is worthwhile to do that.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Oh, I thought you had it as an amendment. You are just simply referring to this statute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The amendment just refers back...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: All right, you may, or if I have time. How's my time, Madam Speaker. How much time do I have, Madam Speaker?

SENATOR CROSBY: You have about three minutes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: All right, yes, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, the statute reads as follows: When the full cost determined to be necessary for the care, support, maintenance, and treatment of any patient is not paid by the patient, or his or her relatives, within 30 days of receipt of such care, (1) the county in which the patient resides shall pay, (a) \$15 per day of the unpaid cost for each of the first 30 days at the Hastings Regional Center, at the Lincoln Regional Center, at the Norfolk Regional Center, or the University of Nebraska Medical Center, or (b) the first \$10 per day of the unpaid cost for each of the first 30 days at the Beatrice State Development Center, and (c) the first \$3 per day of the unpaid cost for each day after the first 30 days at any such institution. The balance of the unpaid cost shall be borne by the state. The county in which the patient resides shall be credited by the Director of Public Institutions for amounts