

collected from such patient or his or her relatives in excess of the portion of such cost borne by the state.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: If I am correct that this particular statute is being looked at in the committee at this point right now, is that part of...Senator Warner, do you have any...is this statute being looked at, the one that Chris just read on cost of care in state institutions? Isn't that part of a...is that part of a proposal in the property tax relief?

SENATOR WARNER: In a very broad sense, yeah.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: In a very broad sense, Senator Warner answered, so I...now I will look at this, but I think I will conclude at this point.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Cudaback on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam President, and members, I guess I am not either opposed or supporting the Beutler amendment. I don't think it does anything that is bad. I think maybe I will support it because maybe counties should share in some of the expense. The overall bill I am in support of. I think this is an issue that we should not sit here and think who is going to gain. Should Buffalo County gain or loss, Lancaster County gain, will Lincoln County gain, I don't think this is what LB 256 does. We should not think in terms of who is going to lose, who is going to gain. It is simply makes General Fund available for an instance where the counties or county may not have budgeted the dollars. Maybe they don't have those dollars there awaiting. It's an unfortunate incidence that happens that causes this to occur in the first place. So we should not look at this as who is going to gain, who is going to lose. I think the state of Nebraska should be responsible. Perhaps we will use it more if the state is responsible for the cost, but so be it. Maybe it just should be that way, but I just think we have to stop trying to figure up who is going to gain, who is going to lose. The state of Nebraska is the melting pot for other things. This is one of those necessary evils, you might say, so I think we should all support this. Who knows who may use it in the future. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Warner.