

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I was just going to speak briefly because most of the things I've have in my thought or mind have already been stated, but...and a thought has occurred to me since the statute requires this to be in a state hospital, you could easily strike state and extend it to a private, which I don't know where the cost would end up. Not that that is so much of an issue, what I would suggest is taking off of along with Senator Wehrbein's suggestion that as we start looking at this balance of what we are going to do with property tax, if the state takes over the cost of a program, and we have a number of proposals, this, too, should become a part of that balancing mechanism that we eventually look at. There are reasons, as I understand it, probably reasons it is in some cases, at least, residency in Lancaster County perhaps because they are here because they were committed here from somewhere else and they just happen to be here, and that makes a difference. It is not...they didn't originate here, but I do think we need to make sure that, as Senator Wehrbein has suggested, that we have a pretty good idea of what the long-term likely event should this be expanded, as it undoubtedly would be, and probably should be, but I guess I will vote to advance this morning without any problems, but I would hope the body would give thought of including this in whatever kind of package that we do with the property tax issue because I think it becomes a part of it as does a number of other bills.

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

SENATOR LYNCH: What was read by Senator Beutler, Madam Speaker and members, what Senator Beutler read is like sort of a mellerdrama line, all of what you see isn't what you get. It should say also in that language, except for Douglas County. Now if you are from a county that has no resources as it applies to a place to hold somebody that could fall into this category, you are really fortunate because the state institutions has to take them and you pay those costs. In Douglas County, because there are private resources, they go to private institutions and all of the Douglas County citizens pay all of the costs. And I have always been curious about that. You know in the Douglas County Hos...I was Chairman of the County Hospital Trustees for years, and our taxpayers and citizens, we used to...we used to come every year or two to see somebody from DPI to see if, in fact, some way could be developed to have some fairness and