

was, the date is June, June 30 of this year, whatever funding level the counties are now expending in these areas, the state would take over that and fund. So that would be the maintenance of effort, in part.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are we unable to put into a bill like this that that level of financial support shall be maintained by the Legislature instead of just stating it as intent language?

SENATOR WESELY: You know, maybe Senator Wehrbein can answer that better. But I don't know about the binding of the state in the future. I think that we may be able to do more than intent. I think the reason we did it this way is because it is off two years from now, and I think that's the best we could do under the circumstances.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wesely, based on the committee amendment, the level of funding that the state would say that it's going to try to reach, is that level that the counties were reaching as of June 30, 1996, but the changeover is not to take place until, based on the language of the bill, kind of a hope in 1988 (sic), or two years later, is that correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Right. You're...will reflect the participation as such funding existing...yeah. So it would be based on this June 30 date of funding.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But it's the intent of the Legislature that these changes take place by July of 1988 (sic), two years down the road. So there will be a gap of two years and when...during which the funding that the county assumes could be higher. And so the state's obligation would then be less than what the counties would be paying at the time the change occurs. Is that correct? And I know you might not have heard the question, so I'll ask it again. If the changeover is supposed to take place in 1988 (sic), well, let me ask a preliminary question, what happens if these changes do not occur by 1988 (sic), they really don't have to, do they?

SENATOR WESELY: No, the bill does call for the changes and the effective date is July 1 of, let me see here, July 1 of 1998. So that's the operative date of the act, so they would have to occur.