

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then, then this intent language is superfluous where they say it is the intent of the Legislature that these changes take place by July 1?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, okay. I'll tell you why, yeah, I saw that too and I agree with you. That section is intent language that sets the basis of the bill, but the actual operative language is back on page 42, line 12.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: That's the reason.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then the intent language could be stricken and it's clear that it's mandatory that these changes occur. Then we have the two-year gap between the date at which county spending will be determined and the date when the state will take over. So during that two-year gap the county could conceivably spend more, couldn't it?

SENATOR WESELY: Right, although actually spending in this area, the counties have been fairly flat. They haven't really been increasing over the years, but you're right, that could occur.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What would be wrong with, if this is to happen, make the state, the state's obligation be whatever the counties were paying as of the date that the change occurs?

SENATOR WESELY: The reason, in discussing it in committee, was the thought that counties might take advantage and increase their funding on a short-term basis in order to increase the obligation of the state. It was just a feeling that it might end up in a loophole taking advantage of. That's mainly what we talked about.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body is, shall the debate now cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Question before the body is, shall debate cease? Have you all voted? The question before the body is, shall the house go under call?