

Wesely, you believe in heaven and you want to go there, that's a good deed that will be on your record. And I don't think that your balance is too good right now, so any little thing will help. And this would be an actual good deed. I should think that we would want to help the poor as much as possible. So I see that gap as being a defect in the bill. Senator Wehrbein wants to push that date out...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...an additional year. So, Senator Wesely, there will now be a three-year gap between when the bill takes effect and the date at which we determine the counties' level of funding of these programs, which will in turn set the level of funding we would look for from the state. But there is nothing in this bill that requires the state to spend any money and we really cannot bind a future Legislature. Senator Wesely is correct in that. That's why bills of this kind are so pernicious and why we deal with the welfare of the poor in a much less sure way than we do when we're dealing with these big companies. We tell them, you stumble around for seven years and find your way to get into this certain category, then you got eight years to take from the state.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time, Senator. Senator Wesely to close on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I appreciate Senator Chambers' comments and his thoughts on some improvements to the bill. I'd be happy to work with him on it. Again, the committee amendments deal with the concerns expressed at the hearing and it retains the counties and regions and public and private providers can be involved. This doesn't deny that opportunity. We talk about that base date on the funding, and I'd be happy to discuss that with Senator Chambers. We talk about the maintenance of effort and the goal of administrative savings and efficiencies and we also clarify that there will be involvement from regional and community representatives in the process of implementing the bill. With that, I'd ask for adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question before the body is shall the committee amendments to LB 1059 be adopted? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.