

CLERK: 26 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely, you would be authorized to open on your bill at this point.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. I talked about this when we talked about the committee amendments, but I would like to take a minute again to reiterate. I've passed out for you a number of materials. I hope you have a chance to look at them if you haven't already. They are from the report that the committee issued this year. They're from a report Senator Vrtiska worked on last year. Senator Wehrbein has been involved in some studies we've done, and others have been involved in various efforts to look at this question of the state relationship with the counties through these regional systems. A number of things...actually in talking to Senator Chambers, I do hope we talk about the funding level and that, but if you look at one of the handouts I have, you'll see that in '90-91, the counties put in 9.2 million. The next year they were down to 8.7 million, then they were up to 9 million, and now they're still at 9 million. I don't know where they're at today in this fiscal year, but the counties have been down or flat basically in their funding, and so if you do care about health and human services, in fact, the counties have a very small amount that they put in, as Senator Matzke talked about, 2 to 8 percent of the cost, and that figure has actually been steady or declining in terms of the amount of money that they put into the system. So the sense is that with that little bit that's put in by the counties, if we are to reorganize our health and human service system, right now if you wanted to say, let's bring together the administrative personnel, let's bring together the offices, let's get some efficiencies here, you would have to go to the regional governing board and the staff which they hire and fire, so they are really in control of the staffing of these regional systems. You have to go to them to work with them to get this accomplished. Now, yes, some of them will work with us and, yes, we will be able to accomplish some of those goals, but I'm telling you there'll be problems in some cases. We had a situation, as I mentioned before, up in Senator Robak's district up in Region IV where we mandated that there be an emergency protective custody center for the mentally ill who were being