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LB 1101

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Beutler, on the Chambers amendment to LB 1101.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess I would support the Chambers amendment. Senator Aguilar, just a couple more questions, if I may. For the body, the questions I tend to be interested in on the bill is the extent to which this program is intended to or required to parrot the federal program that is apparently in existence in and for the Lincoln and Omaha areas. And in Section 2 of the bill, it talks about the purpose of the bill being to provide opportunities to low-income older individuals. And unless I overlooked it, I don't think the bill describes anywhere, and, Senator, I would ask you this, what is meant by low-income and what is meant by older individuals with respect to those that are being helped? Is it your intent that...

SENATOR AGUILAR: This, again, is federal guidelines and I believe it's 60 years old and low income is based on 125 percent of poverty level.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and so it's your intent that the federal guidelines would be followed explicitly with regard to those particular guidelines, or is it your intent that you would allow the department to vary from those guidelines?

SENATOR AGUILAR: I don't think we can allow them to vary from those guide...those are guidelines that they have to work within, and I don't think we can vary that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, if there are no federal funds involved, I assume we're free to make whatever guidelines we want on the program, wouldn't you agree with that?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so if we're free to make whatever guidelines we want, I would be a little bit reluctant with regard to the basic kinds of guidelines to leave it wide open to the department without statutory direction unless we're saying that they...those basic standards should be exactly the same as