

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 5, 2005

LB 709

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Byars, you have approximately one minute.

SENATOR BYARS: I'm going to look around. I don't know who could use that last minute. Lieutenant Governor, I just want to say thank you. Senator Erdman and I have had some dialogue off of the mike. I'm going to continue to think that this is an amendment that is good. Is it all-encompassing and are there some, you know, some of those devil-in-the-details type things? I think if we're establishing trust and I think that's what we've been asked to do with LB 709 in its entirety--trust me, trust me; we're going to come up with something, trust me. Well, I think that if we say, okay, trust me, let's have a little intent language that says, trust me, we're not going to transfer, we're not going to cost-shift in what we do in this study to providers of services and to county government. So I say, trust me.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Erdman.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President and friends all. When I look at language in the committee amendment which has been adopted, beginning in line 18 on page 1, I want to read: "The purpose of the Medicaid Reform Act is to provide for reform of the medical assistance program established in Section 68-1018, also known as Medicaid, and a substantive recodification of statutes relating to such program, including, but not limited to," and here's where we come to the active ingredient language, "the enactment of policies to control the growth of Medicaid spending," and Senator Byars wants to add, "without shifting the cost of providing medical services to county government or to the providers of care." The study can look at all of these things, but Senator Beutler's amendment...I meant Senator Byars' amendment goes to the part of the bill that talks about enacting policies. I think Senator Byars' concern is properly placed in the bill where his amendment is suggesting that it be placed. We're not just talking about the study. At this point, we're talking about the enactment of policies. Are we going to say that a purpose of the recodification, which would include the enactment of policies, should include shifting