

April 11, 1994      LB 1224

SENATOR WILL: If there is no change whatsoever with respect to Medicaid eligibility as a result of LB 1224, I would think that that would fall outside of the counties' concern.

SENATOR HALL: So is the concern on the counties' part where a two-year cap, for instance, which has now been amended, I believe, with Senator Wesely's amendment also providing for the exclusion if an individual doesn't have a job, or if the job doesn't meet certain requirements. But, for example, if the provisions in the bill don't impact the county as it relates to the fear that after two years a bunch of individuals who were previously on state assistance are now going to fall onto county assistance, if that's not the case, at least as relates to the first half of your proposal with the medical services, if they're still covered by Medicaid, would the concern that the county has go away?

SENATOR WILL: If there is no change in eligibility for medical services as a result of LB 1224, if the current system is retained as far as that goes, then the counties' fears go away.

SENATOR HALL: Okay. And if we could just continue this to the second half, because I would share the concern that you have if it's an actual concern. I mean if basically all we're doing is letting the state off and trying to substitute the state programs and shift the burden to the counties, which I don't believe is what we're attempting to do at all, but I think what you're trying to do is offer this amendment to clarify that if nothing else. But what I want to know, and I'll be interested in hearing what the response is by the introducers of the bill, but the issue of general assistance, and I'm now on page 2 of your amendment, you talk about any person who is or becomes ineligible for other general assistance programs due to his or her own actions or inactions, or due to the termination of a benefit period, shall also be ineligible for general assistance from the county. Is it the same concern that you have when you talk about general assistance programs as some...at that two-year cap, that two-year fall-off period, is it the same fear that the county has that individuals will now be eligible or there will be an additional burden placed on the county for purposes of general assistance from the county?

SENATOR WILL: That's exactly the case, Senator Hall. And the language...