

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, no, not at all.

SENATOR WILL: And so it's a structural change you see, but not a...its intent is not to say the counties have an additional responsibility that the state does not.

SENATOR WESELY: No, absolutely not.

SENATOR WILL: And is...and I agree with you as you talked about including the counties in the process and examining the impact, not only on welfare recipients and on the state, but on the counties as well as this is implemented. I guess my question would be this, if we find that there has been an impact on the counties that was unforeseen, inadvertent, unintentional, is this something you'd be willing to work with me to come back and change?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, actually I've got a thought, Senator Will. The role of the counties with general assistance and county medical ought to be part of this whole discussion and study, and I don't see it included right now. And if you wanted to work with me, with some language to that effect, I would be happy to see if we can't amend it here. That should be part of the discussion.

SENATOR WILL: Okay, because I think that while it's...I think it's probably an anachronism that we even have the counties involved at those levels as far as they...they originally were not intended to. As Senator Wesely knows, in the original welfare takeover legislation, as I explained in my opening, the counties were put back in as part of a compromise to save some money in 1983. And I think frankly had the implementation taken place fully I think we would probably be better off today, we would have the entire welfare system operated at the state level instead of leaving these two programs at the county level. And I appreciate Senator Wesely's answers to my questions because I think it's imperative that if we have a back door effect on counties, and thus on property taxes, and thus on property taxpayers, that we'd be willing to come back in as soon as possible and correct that. Again, I appreciate Senator Wesely's remarks. And I would certainly, at this point, with the understanding that we've reached, as far as the discussion that we've had, I would withdraw this amendment.