

assistance and faces extreme hardship, they can come back onto the system. And in a way general assistance is there to meet exactly the same goals. So with the job clarification, and with that extreme hardship option, I'm not clear because we're not clear about exactly how those will be defined, that will come in the next few months. But I see that the potential liability to the counties has been much diminished by that language.

SENATOR HALL: And I would not disagree with that, Senator Wesely. I would argue that you're absolutely right. My point is, I guess, this, is that recognizing that we haven't defined some of these issues, and we're not necessarily sure how general assistance works from county to county,...

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR HALL: ...for example, I don't believe that those standards are uniform from county to county. My concern is that this be readdressed and that the intent...that we make sure that we understand that the intent is not to place these individuals...make them an expense to the county, but that we wrap, as you talked about with Senator Will in his amendment, the whole issue of general assistance and how it would be incorporated, not necessarily to be incorporated as a safety net, but to be incorporated for purposes of knowing that there is some eligibility standard out there that's uniform at the county level that, if nothing else, coincides with what we're doing here in LB 1224. What I don't want to see happen is have different people, based on geographic locations, treated differently. And maybe that isn't a problem. Maybe the counties do have a uniform general assistance procedure that they follow. But I would want to make sure that the individuals who are dealing with this know just what the impact is going to be, so when the department is sitting down and these kinds of things are being established, I want to make sure that we understand what the impact is going to be, not only at the state level, not only at the county level, but to the recipients as well. And I would hope that you'd be willing, and I know you will, and I'm sure that there are going to be bugs in the system when a type of legislation like this is passed, that you will come back and address those issues. And I will be very supportive of those measures. But I want to make sure and make it as clear as possible that the intent is not to either throw these people out altogether, but at the same time not to place them on the county welfare rolls because the state is...no