

April 12, 1973

SENATOR CARPENTER: So then I presume that I should withdraw mine and substitute Senator Whitney's. Is that so, Senator? Then we'll both attempt to explain it.

SPEAKER: Senator Carpenter wants to withdraw his amendment. Any objections to that? So ordered. Now Senator, are we on the Whitney amendment? Who wants to explain that?

SENATOR CARPENTER: I'll start the explanation, Mr. President. This amendment is brought about as a result of a number of meetings with people who were directly involved who had different ideas and over a period of time apparently insofar as I understand it, this represents the compromise between a number of people for a common purpose. We think this is a highly important bill in that it does a number of things. Number one, it eliminates, it limits the amount that a county can levy so it can't exceed one half of a mill. It's my understanding that some of the counties could not participate in this bill should you pass it because they are up against the ceiling now. This permits them to levy not to exceed one half of a mill in order to bring about sufficient funds if they want to to join this intergovernmental application. It also says in substance that the state will put up 75% of the money and that the county and the local level will put up 25% of whatever the state puts up with no relationship to whatever federal money might be put up. By that I mean the 25% is only charged to the amount that the state would appropriate for this purpose. What the federal government might put up would not be subject to a 25% matching by those people on the local level. It also gives a number of alternates for example in the expenditure of money, it provides for the proration of the money might be available. But basically it attempts to put back on the local level those things which we have felt collective is a better place to administer them in this field of need than to have it done on a statewide basis. And that in substance is what, as I understand it, basically what this does. There are other things I'm sure that Senator Whitney can elaborate upon.

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment strengthens the contracts and services provided through the interlocal cooperation act. It does those things that Senator Carpenter mentioned, and I'd like to say that to start with this bill was a result of an Attorney General's opinion. We were, we wrote something wrong in the original bill which was misinterpreted which was not the original intent of the bill and so we put in this bill that the funds would be exclusive of federal funds and it's quite necessary that this bill be passed because by the end of the month if we don't pass the bill some of these people who are in this program are not going to receive their wages. So I move that this amendment be adopted.

SPEAKER: Is there further discussion? Is there any further discussion of the Whitney amendment? Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to direct a question to Senator Whitney if he'll yield.

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I'll try to answer the question.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: These salaries that you mentioned that might be in jeopardy, are these ESU personnel or part of the present mental retardation program?