

Institutions indicating to me that should a person seek voluntary treatment at a private facility, the Department of Institutions will pay the cost of that treatment?

PRESIDENT: You may answer, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: I'm not sure about how the financing is handled on something like that. It depends. Right now I think there is a formula that they utilize. There is some state funding, obviously. But I think there is an ability to pay type formula that they use as well. So I really can't answer that question at this point.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, would it be your general understanding that if a person say would come under the operation of this bill, and rather than face involuntary commitment, they can be held up to 60 days for evaluation, even before being certified that they don't need to be there if they are once locked up? So maybe, with that kind of threat and hammer, the sociological engineering done through the threat of involuntary incarceration might compel some people to say, I will seek voluntary treatment. Would that treatment be paid for if the person is poor?

SENATOR WESELY: On the question of voluntary versus involuntary commitment, I don't know the cost questions on that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. Members of the Legislature, if a person has a drug problem and you keep that person from drugs long enough, you can make them appear to be dried out. They get off the drugs. You can take them off cold turkey, just don't let them have the drugs until they go through withdrawal. But they are not cured. They are not helped. The only way somebody is going to whip that habit is if somehow you can put in them the determination to whip it, then help them deal with the conditions and circumstances that turned them to drugs any way. A lot of people go to drugs because they cannot cope with the life that they face. They are seeking solace. They are seeking surcease of sorrow. They are seeking oblivion. They are seeking highness. This bill doesn't deal with any of those things. All it deals with is the power of the state to involuntarily commit somebody because they are a drug abuser, and for being a drug abuser they become by definition a mentally ill, dangerous person. I think that is wrong. If you want