

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, so we are talking about new money then?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Talking about what?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, we are talking about Senator DeCamp's amendment being adopted which would be new money instead of taking money away from DPI.

SPEAKER NICHOL: We are back to the Lynch-DeCamp amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, well, this is certainly a better, more straightforward way to deal with the problem and I want to thank Senator DeCamp for recognizing that. I did support 280A and 280 and I did support increased funding for community mental health and alcoholism programs. They do deserve more support. I think I will probably go ahead and vote for this amendment. The only caution I have is that this 600,000 would be new monies and we are tight on the budget, but as some of us have recognized, these programs are worthy programs that have been underfunded. We do need to have additional support. The one additional caveat I have is that with the \$6.8 million Medicaid pickup which will reduce county property taxes, they do have some flexibility in their budgets now to perhaps pick up some programs for mental health and for alcoholism so the counties should be able to put in more money to help beef up some of these programs where needed. So I don't know that they can't handle that locally but I still think the state does have some responsibility so I will vote for this.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner please, then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, so that there is no misunderstanding, what I have indicated is that these two programs were not considered for a change during the budget hearings because of LB 280. Now whether or not if 280 had not been introduced, whether there would have been an increase or would not have been an increase recommended by the committee I don't know. We never discussed the point. But we did assume that any increase would be coming from the increased revenue which up until a few days ago was true. So I had a problem with the original amendment because it dug into the funds for DPI. It was equivalent of what the salary increase would have been and