

expires next month at the same time that their money has run out or the nursing home decides, well, Mrs. Higgins doesn't have enough money left for us to take care of her for another six months so let's get rid of her now and we can put a paying patient in there. But a year from now we're going to be forced to put people in there who we have used up their money. It doesn't sound...

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...quite fair to me, to the people that have been there for a number of years and all of their assets are gone now, their home has been sold, everything they owned.

SENATOR WESELY: But let me tell you that no other state has got any provision like this that we know of. I mean we're breaking new ground here so the fact that we haven't had it before and no other state has it, we're really enacting a new concept that I think is very good, but unfortunately it will take some time to implement and there is no other way to do it I don't think.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, I think we could have done it with the bill without the amendment. That was the purpose of the bill, was it not?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'll relinquish my time to Senator Higgins.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Higgins, you may continue.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you again, Mr. President and colleagues. Originally the fiscal note said this bill would require nursing homes as a condition of licensure to retain residents regardless of changes in their economic status. Two exceptions are provided to this requirement, if the resident does not live in the home for one year or if 10 percent or more of the nursing home's residents are Medicaid eligible. Well if they have lived there one year they have already signed the contract. Senator Wesely and Senator Withem, I honestly don't...I don't feel that this amendment is going to help the bill or the people that it