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LB 798

direction. We need to make sure that we're not the only state that is doing it.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I wanted to follow up on what Senator Schellpeper was saying on the A bill as far as staff people. And I agree with Senator Schellpeper. If we're already doing it for three years, it doesn't take that much staff people increase in order to make it up to five. I would assume that at some point, even on General File or Select File, we would take probably a more serious look at that portion of it, or may be...I may file an amendment, if not someone else, to strike the portion as far as increased staff on that portion of the A bill. One of my concerns is it doesn't do this Legislature much good at some point if we begin cutting back on Medicaid, making some stronger restrictions, and yet the only thing we do is increase it on the basis of everyone's...on all the agency levels. All we're doing is transferring monies from a savings in one area to a bigger bureaucracy to enforce it at some point, and we defeat the purpose of why we're doing this thing. If we're reducing Medicaid in other areas and trying to find ways to cut the budget because we can't afford the health care and we don't want to cut other parts of the budget, we want to be very careful about making cuts, transferring them to more bureaucracy and still having the budget problems in the outlying years, and we've gone through the agony of cutting and not received the full benefits of those cuts. So, Senator Schellpeper, I certainly will be looking at that portion of the A bill on Select File, if no one else does, a little bit later, and may offer the amendment to strike that particular portion of it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Any other discussion? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, would you like to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, again I want to emphasize that it's not with wild enthusiasm that any of these bills are really brought before you. But we did have