

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 12, 2000 LB 480

both for the members of the body and for the Health Department who raised questions about it, we inserted the word "Advisory" into the language. The bill drafters wanted the numeric designations changed to alphabetical. We did that. On page 3, we struck language from the bill that said the executive director of the Women's Health Initiative shall also be an ex-officio nonvoting member, and we decided that that was probably why, as you probably wanted a staff person to be a neutral person who was providing information to this council. Page 4, on lines 3 and 4, there's new language which talks about reimbursing the advisory council for travel to and from meetings and we just inserted the language that funds for reimbursement for expenses shall be from the Women's Health Initiative Fund. On lines 9 through 11, there's new language which says that the director of HHS will determine how the Department of Health and Human Services will provide personnel to carry out the initiative. Now there is still in the bill the executive director slot but we have said, all right, the Health Department will decide on support staff for this initiative. And I can't tell you that I think there won't be a need for support staff, but I am hopeful that that can be worked out within the department even. Page 5, lines 12 through 17, there is language that states the Women's Health Initiative does not have to accept any donations that are not in keeping with the goals and objectives of this bill. Again, that was a concern raised on the floor. I don't think it's necessary to put in this language. I think they would have that discretion anyway, but just to make everybody feel more comfortable we put it in. We also added the language that no funds expended or received by or through the initiative shall pay for abortion referral or abortion services. Again, we felt that that language was already in statute but this mirrors it and if it gives a comfort level, we felt that we wanted to do that. On line 25 on page 5, we reworded to have the Department of Health and Human Services have the powers necessary to implement this bill. In other words, we don't want you or anybody else to think that it would be the council who would implement the initiative. The council is there as an advisory council with lots of expertise to bring to the table, but it was never envisioned that they would be the directors of this initiative. And this was done to ensure again that everything worked under the umbrella of the Department of Health and Human Services. That's my explanation. I have tried