

\$800,000 would go into the general fund. There is an A bill that...I don't know if it has been introduced yet or not, but I do plan to introduce an A bill and appropriate the funds from this first year to alcohol programs, but that is not contained in this particular piece of legislation.

SENATOR KAHLE: Okay, now I believe Senator Murphy said there were a number of different agencies and I'm sure there are. What is your recommendation for handling this money? I think we do have more than one agency involved in most of it, and I took part in a program in the south-central region a couple years ago. We tried to combine the alcohol program with the mental health program and we didn't have too much luck. Do you know where they're at with that now?

SENATOR CULLAN: Well the alcohol programs and the mental health programs are still functioning pretty much together so far as the governing boards are concerned. The regional governing board in the six regions across the state... they're the same board that the boards of county commissioners and other people that supervise these programs, and frankly I was not very pleased with some of the administration of these programs. I think we are making improvements through changes in the budget process this year placing the directors of those regions on the state payroll so they're more accountable to the state for their actions, but we have eliminated in this bill a shift and a reorganization of the delivery of these services, because some areas are doing a good job and some are not. But I think we sent a message to those areas that are not doing a good job to clean up their act.

SENATOR KAHLE: How do these regions get their money now? Is that through the DPI, the Department of Institutions?

SENATOR CULLAN: Most of their money comes from the Department of Institutions, LB 204 monies. They also have federal funds that they apply for. In addition to that they have a 10 percent local match, and 15 percent must come from fees or local contributions. So there are those various sources of money.

SENATOR KAHLE: One final question, your bill the way it's written would still use the regional approach?

SENATOR CULLAN: If you adopt these Committee amendments, yes.