

effect or any immediacy whatsoever. Otherwise it is a four year delay. The committee determined that if we were going to put the bill out and if it were going to be preferred to the Legislature that the only way it had any meaning was to have at least the E clause on it. For that reason the committee is now offering the emergency clause.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labeledz, do you wish to speak to the emergency clause?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few moments to say that it is important that the emergency clause be added. Senator DeCamp mentioned many of the contracts will be negotiated for the three years effective July 1st so it is important that the emergency clause be put on this bill so that the specifications or the guidelines for the new contracts can be put in before July 1st. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler. We are on the emergency clause.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I oppose adding the emergency clause to this bill that just mandates another program to local government. I don't see exactly what the emergency is. I think that we are going to disrupt not just the negotiations to state employees health contracts but several other health contracts across the state, in your cities, in your counties, in your school districts and I would be very surprised to see that this Legislature that normally says that we should not be involved in such local matters stand up and say, not only are we going to direct what should and shouldn't be in your insurance policies but we are going to direct it as an emergency that has to take effect immediately. Even if you are close to finishing those negotiations or perhaps even if you have already finished those negotiations we are going to say we want those changed before the plans go into effect. I don't see the need for the emergency clause. I think this is an example of overreaching into public policy matters that are better settled at the local level and I know that that is kind of a consistent theme in this Legislature and I am sure that no one really sees the need for us to go meddling in local affairs with such urgency.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I think Senator Fowler raised some good points. I think, however, that we'd better put the emergency clause in so they can negotiate knowing exactly what the rules are in the future.