

think basically do some other changes that are minor to make the bill a little more understandable and that is the changes that the committee has proposed. I would move their adoption.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the amendments... Okay, Senator Fowler, I recognize you.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Fowler moves to amend the committee amendments and the Fowler amendment is on page 1521 of the Journal.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I present these amendments as Chairman of the Interim Study Committee that developed LB 404 and Senator Cullan authorized me to indicate that as chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee my amendments to his committee amendments are acceptable and that with the adoption of those amendments I would agree then to the committee amendments. The committee amendments as a whole scale back the scope of LB 404 as Senator Wesely said, limit it in many areas and eliminate a certain deadline in timetable for accomplishment of the goals, leaving more control with the Legislature and with the area agencies. There were two objections to the committee amendments, very strong objections from people working with senior citizen programs. One is that currently we have eight area Agencies on Aging. Senator Cullan proposed on the Health and Welfare amendments merged those into six, creating a certain amount of consternation in southeast Nebraska and central Nebraska where some programs did not wish to be merged together. My amendments split those programs back out that we have the eight existing programs, therefore, southeast Nebraska would not have to merge its program with Lincoln and in the western part of the state or central part, two programs would not have to merge. The boundaries would still be the same as the six Human Service areas but in two of the Human Service areas there would be two area Agencies on Aging as is the current pattern. The second concern with the Health and Welfare Committee's amendment was the suggestion that the state director hire the local Area Agency director and the feeling was and I think, I handed out a letter from Jack Mills, county officials, that if we are going to have area boards the area boards should have the final determination as to who is going to run the area program. So as a compromise we developed that the state shall develop criteria, qualifications for the area directors, that there shall be state evaluations of the services at the area, strong state oversight but there still would be local control as far as the final hiring. This compromise is acceptable to Senator Cullan and to the County Officials Association and I think with my amendments to the committee amendments we strike a balance as