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are two area agencies and I can't remember the exact titles of them but they would be merged. North Platte is one of them and I believe Kearney is the other one. Those two would be merged into an area and the current eight districts have been worked out. Previously they matched the six Human Service Regions but they are in two of those regions then subdivided into smaller regions and that is the way the program has been working and it seems to be the acceptable way to continue.

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman. Senator Nichol. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, these two amendments offered by Senator Fowler, I think are agreeable and I would support them. The first is essentially a grandfather clause for the two regions that now have two area Agency on Aging programs. Essentially the concept that we were trying to do with these amendments is to say that we would break down to the present six regions in the state and have one governing board for them. The problem in Senator Maresh's case would be that we have two area Agency on Aging programs already in place with boards and this would say that one of those boards would have to go and then one would serve the entire region. It does not mean that necessarily you would lose any of the services or offices. It would mean though that only one governing board would make decisions for that region but since we already have two cases where they seem to be functioning well and there does not seem to be perhaps a need to merge them, the thought is, well, let's in those two instances allow them to continue and have a case where there are two governing boards instead of one in this particular region for aging services and I don't think that is a particularly harmful thing to do and of course if there are problems we can always deal with those at a later date. The other item about the appointing of the local area Agency on Aging director, the concerns I expressed before about the Panhandle situation are indeed concerns that we do have but it does make sense that perhaps the local area agency board ought to be the one to decide who runs that area agency and that perhaps state oversight will be strong enough through this bill to provide the extra strength that we need to make sure that they do the job right. Again, I would emphasize that the Public Health Committee has taken regional service systems as a high priority for study this interim and we will be looking at mental health, mental retardation, alcoholism and aging services under the regional systems that we have developed. There have been problems in other areas. We are trying to deal with those