

April 28, 1981

LB 404

in those areas not now served, we are talking about thirty some counties which don't have aging services, that with the bill in its introduced form would have required that those areas now provide some services but we took that out so that is a big expense that is not in there at this point and the bill is, I think, very fiscally sound and the state needs to do this because we don't have a mechanism and this bill does set up a mechanism and has a structure and a form in which we can fill in as we see fit the needs for aging services in the state.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: I have a question of Senator Wesely or any member I guess of the Public Health Committee that could help me. As I understand the bill, the bill establishes a commission appointed by the Governor who in turn hires, selects a director...

SENATOR WESELY: Mmm, hmmm.

SENATOR WARNER: ...and I was wondering if the committee, since it advanced from the committee, the bill that was passed this morning, 249, which this seems to be the direct opposite direction, if there was a rationale why this should be a commission type of agency and would it not be more consistent if we amended the bill in a like fashion as we did on 249 so that the director was appointed by the Governor? The commission could be advisory as apparently most of the body felt was appropriate for Health Department and I am wondering if you discussed it and if there is some rationale. And I had an amendment prepared to do this so it could be more formally addressed but it is not ready so I will just raise the question this way.

SENATOR WESELY: That is a good question, Senator Warner. Yes, it was discussed in committee because we also had a bill from Senator Nichol which would have done exactly what you just mentioned. It would have placed a Commission on Aging underneath the Governor. We did not do that with this bill for a couple of reasons and we did kill Senator Nichol's bill for those same reasons. Number one, the Governor did not support that recommendation at this point. He did not want to see the Commission on Aging placed under his direct control and allowing him the appointment powers this year this session whereas he did support the Department of Health bill. The other thing was that we were concerned about the timing because of the controversy out in the Panhandle and what looked like retribution possibly. We decided this would not be a good session to pursue that issue and we were looking