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LB 558

But I do think that when the Governor's Task Force on Reorganization proposed Coordinators, that really what they were trying to do was get some greater accountability within state government, and by distributing this salary over agencies and forcing certain agencies to accept this salary when, in fact, they had not requested the position, I think diminishes those clean lines of authority and kind of discredits the efforts of the Task Force on Governmental Reorganization. I think it further confuses the lines within state government. We really don't know if this person is an employee of the Department of Environmental Control, or if, in fact, they are the Supervisor of the Department of Environmental Control. By consolidating the salary in one budget, I think we do provide clean lines of authority so that everybody knows where within the hierarchy this position stands. So I would support Senator Beutler and Wesely in their effort for good fiscal management.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler. We are on the Wesely amendment. Okay. Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I oppose the Wesely-Beutler amendment. Senator Wesely and Senator Beutler are trying to indicate some new type of allocation system that has not been practiced before and that's absolutely not so. We have always tried to proportionately charge those agencies where the work and the responsibility is and where the work is being conducted. And if this individual appropriately is working for several agencies, I don't think it is right, I don't think it is good accounting, I don't think it is good fiscal policy to put the total amount or the total appropriation on either one agency or the other if, in fact, two agencies are sharing this individual's time and talents. That is what the appropriation has intended to do by keeping this split so that we can assess, so that we can properly account for the amount of time the individual spends in the area of his endeavor, and to me that is accountability in its fullest. I think Senator Fowler makes a good point in that it is a new position and we certainly conclusively don't know exactly how much time will be spent in which agency, but that can be adjusted next year. The percentages might be arbitrary this year because of the new position, but if we find out, in fact, that the percentages are off, we can make that adjustment when the jury is in. So I think the arguments used are, that he will work exclusively in one area or another, I think, are unfounded. I think it is speculation, and I don't think that we have been given the reasons to change the proportionate accounting as they exist now in LB 558.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.