

May 8, 1981

LB 404

Aging. If we feel that this should be a code agency and under the Governor, let's do it, let's do it now. I am sure that there will not be any wholesale wipeout of any employees or any big changes or anything like this, as nobody is vindictive. Any Governor is not going to see that the aged are not taken care of in the best manner. They are going to look out after them politically if nothing else, so we don't have to fear who is the Governor or who is the legislators. The Commission is going to stay and it is going to be advisory. So I see no need to wait until January of '83, and I say if we are going to do this which I feel we should do, I support the Warner amendment. I ask you to vote against delaying it for whatever reason. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am in similar position to Senator Marsh. I will support Senator Cullan's amendment as Chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee, his amendment to Senator Warner's amendment to delay this transition from a Commission to an advisory committee, at least one fiscal year and in Senator Cullan's amendment a little longer. In the interim study that we had that led to LB 404 one of the facts that came out was that there is a good deal of satisfaction with the Commission and the Commissioners. A lot of senior citizens stepped forward and testified on behalf of the people who had been appointed by Governor Exxon and Governor Thone to the Commission on Aging, and the Commission on Aging is existing in statutes already but its powers are limited and, in fact, what the Commission is doing due to the arrival of federal money is far more than what the statute originally called for, and that is one reason 404 was brought in. Now if a transition should be made from the Commission form to something like a code agency, I think that there should be a transition time to do that. For that reason I find that Senator Cullan's proposal which, as I understand it and I hope Senator Cullan clarifies this, it would put 404 into effect at the normal operative date. But the changes that Senator Warner proposes to move to a committee, an advisory committee from the appointed Commission, now the membership would be the same but the powers certainly would be different, and the fact this would be a code agency it would not take effect until January, 1983. The rest of 404 would go into effect, the planning process, the involvement of the local area agencies on Aging in terms of developing an area plan would begin on the normal operative date. I would support Senator Cullan's amendment. I think that