

counties joined in eight area Agencies on Aging that already exist.

SENATOR LAMB: Thirty seconds, Senator.

SENATOR FOWLER: This bill does not create anything new. It recognizes what has grown up in the State of Nebraska. This bill does not lack limits on those entities. Rather it imposes for the first time as state policy some requirements, some plans and for that reason, we felt that 404 was a necessary step in order that we establish controls and definitions on a system that has already grown up. 404 does not create something new. It simply structures what we already have. It takes an executive commission and makes it an executive department. It recognizes the area Agencies on Aging that already exist and it puts limitations, puts limitations on the aging program. So that if Senator Beutler had understood that and explained that to you on the sixtieth day of the Legislature...

SENATOR LAMB: Your time is up, Senator.

SENATOR FOWLER: ...that would have been okay.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I guess I, too, would like to rise in opposition to Senator Beutler's motion to return and again, members of the Legislature, I think it is a little unusual that Senator Beutler on the last day of the Legislature, a bill that has been sitting there for one year would take this opportunity to try and raise some questions that I think have been resolved long ago. It is just amazing to me that he would do that. Anyway, let's go ahead and discuss the bill a little more. Senator Fowler talked about the background. We are trying to reorganize and bring together an area that needs some attention, has been looked at for three years. It was three years ago that LB 665 was introduced by former Senator Ray Powers which would have changed the same sort of things that we are talking about with LB 404. Then last year we introduced LB 404. It was moved up to Final Reading and it sat there ever since. Now we are to the third year that this idea has been discussed. It has strong support across the State of Nebraska. It is the number one priority of the Silver-haired Unicameral. You have been contacted by the older citizens across the State of Nebraska who support this idea. It has got the involvement of the senior citizens and I think it has got their support. So I think we ought to go ahead and pass this legislation and move forward with the other matters before this Legislature.