

account here? Are there ways to combine some of these services, etcetera?

SENATOR WESELY: What would be set up by the region would be similar to some other regions that we have now in place. So they were determined along, you know, community of interest lines. There are currently some county and city health departments and what would happen is where there is a region where there currently are those type of departments and also other types of public health services that may be in place, you would have the local control element that a lot of people believe in in this body and would have that local region determining what is now there, what is needed and trying to mesh together the services under this bill to fit in with what is already being provided and fill those gaps. So I think it isn't going to...it's...six hundred some thousand dollars to provide public health services across the State of Nebraska is not an unreasonable amount of money. It's not a large amount of money and it's...I don't know that you can find efficiencies that would be able to reduce that figure. I don't think we're asking too much whatsoever.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, thank you. Also, could you tell us a little bit about this demonstration project that's talked about? And is that kind of a pilot project for this particular piece of legislation and is it tied to it in any way at all? And can you tell us a little bit about how it's worked?

SENATOR WESELY: The demonstration project?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Uh-huh.

SENATOR WESELY: Are you talking about the...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The one down in the southwest...

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, sure.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...part of the state.

SENATOR WESELY: Sure. Actually, that's...I'm glad you brought that up because we did set that up and we just...a couple years ago I passed a bill that established that in statute. And in southwest Nebraska they didn't have...it's kind of a model we based this effort on that they didn't have access to public