

talked about the possibility of maybe making those regions a bit smaller and perhaps making them conform with other regions that are already in place.

SENATOR LYNCH: Senator Scofield, Mr. President and members, good question. We did address this for at least two days in our subcommittee and in our other deliberations on the issue. There are, in fact, you're right, a number of different areas for everything. When I was in Douglas County we had 14 different areas. We had the Health Planning Council in the Midlands; we had the Metropolitan Area Transit, I could go on down the list of things; the Douglas County Health Department, etcetera, etcetera. So legitimate concern. We did address those kinds of things in our deliberations and rather than coming down on the six mental health regions or the six retardation regions came down on, since this would be a public health responsibility, agreed that the proposed six regions should be the existing health department regions. Interestingly enough, for those that don't know, the health department regions are different from the MR and from the mental health regions. But that is a problem for us. I have no problem with trying to consolidate the regions in any way to make it administratively more effective. This only exists because they were...they accepted the mental health...mental...or the State Health Department regions as they now exist.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. The other question I think either you or...you have been addressing the whole issue of coordination and Senator Smith and a number of others have raised that but I would give the rest of my time to both you and Senator Wesely to talk about, in more depth, if you feel it's necessary to talk about how we might, as a Legislature, do some coordination in there so that, in fact, those gaps get filled and you and I both have been around long enough to know that there is a little bit of turf out there once in a while and I don't know that we have ever...after being...working on the Childrens' Committee and you have been interested in that, a lot of people have been, I don't know that we have been remarkably successful in our well-intentioned attempts to coordinate and we have some things to learn about how to do that yet. And I guess I would appreciate some expansion on what role you see in the Legislature and particularly the Health Committee in that coordination, and specifically then beyond that what have your deliberations been in the committee? We have a number of interesting looking health bills out there coming down the pike.