

Have you...are you going to bring us kind of a package of health proposals? It's difficult for me not having the advantage of sitting in the committee and listening to those bills to figure out how to put all the pieces together so we come out with a better system. You can both take the rest of my time to respond to that however you please. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute. Senator Lynch, please, the Chair would ask you to speak into the microphone.

SENATOR LYNCH: Okay.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Make it a little easier for the transcribers. Thank you.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes. Senator Scofield, members, we did look at more regions but that meant more cost. You have a...I don't know if you have a yellow sheet in your list but it indicates the Panhandle, for example, has...I don't think the microphone works too good, Mr. President, but I will...I can holler old William Jennings Bryan act here if I can or have to. The Panhandle has about a 100,000 people served as a region, very large region. The west central has 114, the central has 215,000, northern has 205, southeast 385,000 and the midlands has 535,000. All have the same four staff. The reason the difference in the population is that the geography and the unmet need determine probably the region in addition to the existing health department regions. Now, keep in mind that this is...and all of the budgets, as you will see, can be different. That's because existing, for example, in the Panhandle there apparently are sanitarians on board so public health nursing, health educator and clerk are the only ones involved. You can see in the central, for example, there's a sanitarian involved, along with public health nursing, health educator and clerk, therefore, the budget is a little higher. That was the reason. We already have a pretty good idea what's out there. We also know very well what's not out there.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired. Thank you, sir. Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I believe it was either Senator Wesely or Senator Lynch that mentioned the fact that they would not be able to contract with any other public health department or community agencies for service. But in the