

SENATOR PIRSCH: For what...for lights, heat, etcetera? Or...

SENATOR LYNCH: I would guess so. Hopefully not for inoculations.

SENATOR PIRSCH: So we would set up offices.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And then...and then the other money, of course, if for the expenses for the advisory boards that meet in everyone of these areas. And I guess I'm trying to work through the fact that what this money goes for really is another layer of bureaucracy and I can't quite understand why the Health Department does not have these kinds of expertise already on board in the department. Not one penny of this will actually go for immunizations or go for health care services but will go for salaries of those who will establish offices in these various regions and then, as I understand it, do the various things that they think need to be done or contract with the various agencies which, of course, will create more demands for the actual health service money that's necessary to accomplish what they come up with. I don't...I don't see how it's going to, for instance, address the physician recruiting. We have a special area that is trying to find physicians for local areas. I don't see how it will do any more than what we should have available in the Department of Health right now and maybe you could clarify that for me.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, yes. Right now it's my understanding under the Department of Health rules and regulations the only services they can contract for is home health care, nothing else. As far as the staff doing nothing except administering, obviously, the whole...the public health nurse would be providing a lot of service. So there is, in fact, service involved along with this. But, right now, the Health Department of Nebraska is not authorized to provide any service, with the exception...with the exception of home health care.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Why...why do we need this...these other layers of bureaucracy in the regions themselves then?

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING