

understand it but just in case I don't. As I understand, the bill will set up a number of con...of entities. Some group will be selected that will be designated contractors and they may be in a variety of areas around the state. Could I ask Senator Wesely, is that much right?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, would you respond?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. No, it doesn't set up any new entities. It's most likely that the lead agency would contract with economic development districts as per Senator Wehrbein's amendment, Nebraska Business Development Centers or some existing structure like that to handle this. So it wouldn't be creating anything new that I anticipate.

SENATOR WARNER: Okay. That part I wasn't clear on. If...but I still have a hesitancy, I know that there was a request in the following year's budget for...I don't recall the exact amount, 25 or 26,000 for the operation within the Department of Economic Development for at least what I believe is a similar type of proposal to this, provisions in this bill, substantially less. I appreciate that there is no question but what there is a place for this type of activity within the state but I am not convinced that we need to expand it to this level, nor am I convinced that it is inadequately being taken care of as it is now set up or proposed to be set up in the current budget deliberations which we will be undertaking in a few days. And, secondly, I'm a little confused when I look at the A bill. I understand what's trying to be done but it transfers from a program money over to fund this bill commencing July 1 of next year. Obviously, there may not be any money in that program when it comes to the time for the fiscal year to begin. And if that would prove to be the case, then the bill is unfunded unless there is perhaps an amendment to the A bill to make a straight up additional appropriation and I assume it has to be increased by the Wehrbein amendment, in any event. But I am hesitant to expand a program in this area when there is a program somewhat under way now currently planned to be expanded within the Department of Economic Development and I would be more comfortable to see whether the somewhat more modest proposal for expansion is implemented and whether or not that is adequate could be judged later on if we need to have a broader and more definitive program as apparently outlined in this bill. I really rise to express some reluctance to see this bill advance because it seems to me that at least the potential for a