

cause problems of putting the Department of Health into the unemployment system in making decisions as to what programs would be eligible and which ones would not. I think it would provide for a much better flow of all of the oversight if those designations of what were approved programs were made by rule and regulation by the Commissioner of Labor. This amendment, basically, is designed for smooth implementation of this section of statute with a minimal amount of added bureaucracy to be put in place. I would suggest that the second part of the Hall amendment causes some serious problems in that, in order to maintain eligibility for the unemployment programs, while in...while in a drug treatment program, there needs to be a system of regular reports to the Commissioner of Labor by the involved people to ensure their continuing participation in the drug treatment program. Otherwise, we have really no other language that would give the Commissioner of Labor authority to require any type of report beyond the initial application for enrollment. There is no compliance language without the last sentence. So, with that in mind, I would suggest that the Hall amendment is something that we do not want to interject into this bill at this time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand what Senator Coordsen just said. It's a very tricky field to deal with conformity under the unemployment compensation program. But I think Senator Hall is right. I think past experience would indicate that a Commissioner of Labor has had little or nothing to do with the area of drug and alcohol treatment programs and their either approval or disapproval. I would understand that the commissioner could call on the Department of Health to advise him or her in making that decision but it doesn't make much sense to go forward with the commissioner making that determination. I would clearly think that as far as the program being approved or disapproved, that should be the Department of Health function. Perhaps the way to...the way to do it would be to have the Department of Health submit to the commissioner a list of approved programs or something, Senator Coordsen, so that the Department of Health would make the determination and the commissioner would then simply implement their recommendation. In addition, as for the releases of information to the commissioner, again, I would have to wonder what skills or background the Commissioner of Labor would have