

don't make poor people wait for services from our ADC system, we entitle them to services. We eventually, in this state, need to entitle the developmentally disabled to services. But, because of the costs and the concerns about the transition to that sort of entitlement, this amendment would remove the mandate for the entitlement from the bill, and would instead have the Department of Public Institutions examine the potential for entitlement, and the number of people that would be served under entitlement would cost, and how the services would be provided, and come back to the Legislature, before the end of this year, with a report on that specific concept, again with the idea that we would move forward in that area with more information provided to us. We make some other changes in this amendment that have been brought to us, of concern from the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Education. We do, in this bill, try to coordinate services to individuals with developmental disabilities, on the state level, by bringing different functions together, primarily from the Department of Social Services and the Department of Education who are now involved in this area. We take a number of the functions they are involved in and try to merge them with the Department of Public Institutions. We have found, because primarily they are federal programs, that there are federal barriers to that, and so what our language would be is to attempt to achieve cooperation and collaboration between the departments as best and as far as we can, under the current federal mandates and barriers that we face in this area. So we're trying to bring as much as we can, a consolidation of services from the state level in this area, but we are finding some difficulty. So this language will hopefully meet objections raised by these departments, and still, as best we can, achieve that coordination and collaboration. We do require the Department of Public Institutions to develop a payment funding methodology that's in writing, and also a plan for funding shortfalls so that the local, regional bodies, and also other providers will know the funding stream and the plans for any problems with the funding in the future. We clarified that the Department of Public Institutions is able to contract with public and private providers. We also clarify language dealing with case coordination, and the fact that that also can be contracted out by the department. These amendments are an attempt to compromise with the various entities that have been involved with the issue, I think they go a long way to dealing with the concerns that you probably heard about the bill. I would strongly urge the adoption of these amendments to the committee