

mental retardation and these people, these 300 some individuals, will now be included in the service system. But, again, because there's no entitlement, will unfortunately have to wait for services as others do. We set up a due process system in this legislation so that we have an independent due process similar to the due process we have in the special education program today with a hearing officer appointed by the department to independently allow for families and clients to have their cases heard. There is currently due process in some cases by the very people that deny services, are then the individuals you appeal to for reconsideration and it's not a very independent workable due process system. We require certification of programs and set up a system to do that, which includes having local boards there to govern local service providers so that we have local input and people able to grab hold of these programs on a very close basis and make them work to the advantage of those receiving services. We set up a state plan, a three-year plan by the department. We set up a statewide registry so we know who is eligible for services and what type of services they may need so we can have a good handle on the waiting lists and the need for services that we have in our state. We do set up a funding formula that follows a client so that we can better serve their needs. And, again, we do provide overall an enhanced state oversight of the system. Since the State of Nebraska does provide the bulk of the funding, they would better be able to oversee the system and make sure it is serving the purposes intended. That is a quick summary of the bill. It is a very important bill. It impacts a lot of people. A lot of work has gone into it through the task force and others and we continue to work on it. I would very much ask for support for this legislation and its advancement to Select File.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Discussion on advancement of the bill. Senator Moore.

**SENATOR MOORE:** First off, a question of Senator Wesely. He mentioned including more people after the age of 21 in the developmentally disabled. Obviously, the question I have is what sort of a fiscal impact does that have and when would it occur?

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Senator Wesely, would you respond, please?

**SENATOR WESELY:** The expansion to include the developmentally disabled, because there is no entitlement, has...hasn't really