

September 28, 1992 LB 14

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President. Members, what this bill would do would be to merge the Risk Manager and the Department of Personnel into the Department of Administrative Services. The intention of the bill is to provide a consolidation of government which would help streamline some of the or cause some efficiencies within government. The areas in which it is expected that some savings could be had would be primarily in the areas of accounting, payroll, and personnel. By merging those functions into one, there would be some savings as far as positions go. The fiscal statement, you will find, is rather nebulous. The savings that were suggested by the counsel to the Governor or chiefs of staff of the Governor in committee was down the road we could expect 50 to \$100,000 a year savings. Initially, it is hard to quantify that because it is based on exactly how much efficiency can be accomplished through this or how many positions are eliminated, how much can be done by merging functions of different personnel. It should be noted that prior to 1982, the State Claims Board had been under DAS. We are really breaking new ground. It had been done before. It was done at that time because the Department of Administrative Services had gotten too large, unmanageable, bulky. With the advent of computerization, we can get away from...we have gotten away from some of the problems of all the paper trails, all the paper work, and some of it can be streamlined without the problems we ran into back then. I would try to answer any questions that arise. I believe Senator Warner will be having an amendment to the bill. It is an amendment that I think is justified, deals with the chief negotiator of labor relations being directly appointed by the Governor. We will handle that when it comes up but I'd be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Mr. Clerk, an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill. (Chambers amendment appears on page 92 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, this is a policy decision that is being made, and I think it is an unwise one with reference to the Department of Personnel. The others I haven't had time to really determine