

September 28, 1992 LB 14

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

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Chambers would move to amend. This is your amendment, Senator, that strikes all references to the Department of Personnel found in LB 14.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, my true feeling is that of Senator Crosby, that on these kind of policy decisions, we should not make them during a special session. Do you all remember how much was stated in terms of this being a session to cut expenditures. If you look at the fiscal note, it says there is the possibility of potential savings, but there is no saving that can be shown as a result of this bill being enacted. So if the purpose of enacting this bill is to cut, I don't think that, even if it would occur, is sufficient justification for the policy shift. I do believe that the Personnel Department, which on occasion functions in a quasi judicial role should not be under the direction of the Department of Administrative Services when a grievance against that department could come to the Personnel Division. This department would no longer be a free-standing department. It would be incorporated into the Department of Administrative Services and become a division. In other words, right now the Department of Personnel is a free-standing octopus. Under this bill, we convert it to a tentacle and attach it to the Department of Administrative Services, which is the octopus who then controls it. I believe when you are talking about departmental changes or merges in government whereby you are going to put one division under the dominance of another, you have to consider what kind of person might wind up being in charge of that department. The integrity of the department has to be dependent on the structure of the department itself and the legislation surrounding it, rather than hoping that you get a fair-minded person. One of the benefits of having people here a long time, Senator Hillman, and others who may realize why term limits is not a good idea, is to have people who remember things that happen in the past. There was a Director of Administrative Services under Governor Thone who had some disputes with members of the Legislature. At that time, nobody thought anything was wrong with the Legislature providing coffee and tea and soft drink beverages for the