

September 28, 1992 LB 14

not had time to consider, and which merger has not been shown to be essential or productive in terms of efficiency.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment and try to tackle some of the issues he has raised. First of all, I think it is important that the Legislature does look at making government more efficient, streamlining government. I don't think we can continue to keep putting off and saying we ought to create another commission to take a look and see if government is doing what it ought to do. I think we have to take a step up and do it. We have got to take a look at the issues, and if it takes us, Senator Chambers doesn't care how long we are in session, so I am sure time is of no consideration to him, we can consider it right now. We have to make those decisions. We have to start looking at whether government is being efficient. This is a situation, at least part of it, I am glad he zeroed in on the Personnel Board, maybe that is the issue that he is concerned with, but we have to look at...if we look at the State Claims Board, that is a division that was within the Department of Administrative Services at one point. The only problem was just the size of the department, but with the advent of the computer, we all know how much more work can be done, how much more efficiently work can be done, and it is manageable at this point. So as far as is there going to be any philosophical problem with the claims and risk management area being under the Department of Administrative Services, that should not be an issue. The philosophy of that should not be an issue. Then raising the question of the philosophy of the Personnel Board being under the Department of Administrative Services does break new ground. That is something that, yes, we ought to talk about. The horrors that Senator Chambers has placed before you I don't think actually exist. If we look at who will make the decision on the grievances brought before the Personnel Department, those are made by the State Personnel Board ultimately, and that board does not change. The independence of that board remains. It will continue to be made by a board that is controlled no more by the Director of Administrative Services than the current board is now controlled by the Director of the Department of Personnel. I think that's...that argument I believe does not fly. I believe that the independence is not