

to hire people? And is the hiring freeze only applied to permanent employees? Is that what it comes down to?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I would say yes. Yeah. I didn't dictate the hiring freeze. I would assume if you have a hiring freeze, you don't expand workers in most cases. You simply, if somebody leaves, you hire somebody to replace it or if you have somebody leave in one program you probably could hire back in another as long as you had the PSL.

SENATOR ABOUD: Now does a hiring freeze entitle, if a person leaves their place of employment, do you replace that person? Is that what they mean by a hiring freeze, you do not replace that person?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I would assume it affects different agencies different. I don't think necessarily, if you had somebody leave and you needed that position, I would think you could hire them back as long as you didn't exceed the original, you know, the norm.

SENATOR ABOUD: Who authorized the hiring freeze?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I think it was an executive order by the Governor.

SENATOR ABOUD: And did you distribute a copy of that order to the members? Does the order just state there's a hiring freeze in effect?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I guess. That's been, what, two years ago, a year ago? Two and a half years ago.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay. Well, I understand. I know that the Appropriations Committee is trying to do the right thing and I don't think anyone is questioning that they're looking at the situation and trying to make it work within our current budgetary process, but I have a little frustration in that if we have a hiring freeze, let's have a hiring freeze. If we don't have a hiring freeze, let's not have a hiring freeze. But how can you do one thing and do completely the opposite? How can I go back to my constituents and say, yeah, I know we have a hiring freeze, we're trying to hold the line on the budget but we really don't have a hiring freeze. We're paying these temporary employees out of state funds, so to my definition it's