

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Senator Brashear, could you tell me where the study is, or how far it has been going on on this, or is it something that just started last year, or where is it at?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: The legislation was passed in 1994. I certainly cannot represent to you that I have intimate knowledge of the status of the study, except that it has been conducted to this point in time by the use of federal funds, which are no longer available, and the study will not continue without this funding. And the objectives of the study are simply to gather the data necessary to organize and coordinate and develop a plan for the creation of this trauma treatment network, including, including how people...how people respond, where they are located, where they are taken, what kind of transportation is appropriate given the geographical distance involved, all that sort of thing. I truly saw it as a rural and urban because we have trauma both places, because we have hospitals or trauma treatment centers, or potential trauma treatment centers across the state, but we have great geographical mass to be traversed so we get into transportation and whether it is better by ground or by air, and those kinds of things.

SENATOR JONES: Well, thank you, and I think I might ask Don Wesely the same question. He is shaking his head over there like he's got a good answer. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I don't know if I have a good answer, but you have a bill passed last year. Then the board was formed with physicians and hospital representatives and emergency representatives and different interests. They have been meeting, working, getting starting on all this, and like we said, we thought the federal funding would be adequate to do all the study, and then when the plan came we could decide, as a Legislature, how to go forward. But, unfortunately, the federal money has run out. They are a third to half of the way through the study. But this is, once they get the study done, ultimately, we should have a system that we can, as a Legislature, move forward with that will integrate all areas of the state so that we know exactly how we are going to move