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SENATOR WESELY: No, let me clarify that. What will happen is that we will have three departments where there are now five, so that will occur. But it's the meshing of the internal programs and services now in statute that will not occur until next year. That's why the committee amendment does not take away, or change, or add, or subtract what we're currently doing. That would be something to look at next year.

SENATOR WITEK: So the policy change will occur without our knowledge, but the statutory change will be brought to us for approval next year.

SENATOR WESELY: No, no, I think... No, the program changes will not occur. There will be an administrative change as to how these are administered, but within that the programs and services will continue, and then they'll have to come back to us to make changes with those.

SENATOR WITEK: Okay. And one other concern I have in that same section is the last line that says, "The Policy Cabinet is not a public body and its meetings are not subject to the public meetings laws." Maybe I could... maybe you could elaborate for me why you would want to do this behind closed doors.

SENATOR WESELY: The Policy Cabinet is the directors of three agencies and the Policy Secretary. Currently, they can meet, of the agencies that are involved, their directors, they can sit down anytime and talk with one another about what's happening, and they never have to have a public forum to do that. It's the same situation here. These are the directors of the agencies working together to make this happen. And they're not currently required to have public meetings, so we didn't think we needed to change that. The partnership council that's set up with the public members that are part of that, that is always a public meeting, and that's where a lot of the public discourse can occur. So we have that as the public entity involved.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you. Well, I just wanted to point out that I have grave concerns about this bill. I certainly am not opposed to efficiency and effectiveness and saving money, but I have concerns with this section of the bill that does that, essentially, behind closed doors, huge policy decisions will be made. They will be blending together the outcomes for the development and policy objectives and strategic plans for all of