

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

this would be the wisest step to take at this time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: To your knowledge, is there any experience in any other state or in the federal government where administration of these types of services has been attempted along these structural lines?

SENATOR WESELY: I would think that this is unique. I know of other states that have done the one agency change and in some cases...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...it has not been a successful effort. That was one of the lessons that we learned, that that all together type of move, that major move may be too much. So that is one of the reasons we didn't take that step. But this model is fairly unique, I'm not aware of any other like it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Madam President and members of the body, could I ask Senator Wesely a question?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR JONES: In Broken Bow, just for an example, in Broken Bow there's probably about ten caseworkers in town. Will this any way cut down the number of them? I realize nothing takes effect until January 1 of '97, but will this cut down the number of caseworkers that we have in town? Because one person comes in and sometimes have to see several caseworkers to get something accomplished.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, ultimately, that would be...the goal is not to cut down the number of caseworkers that are in any particular area. The goal is to cut down the number of caseworkers duplicating each other's work. That will eventually happen, but not under this bill, because this bill takes the administrative structures and changes them January 1 of next year. But the actual integration of the casework and bringing it all together, that will have to follow with legislation next