

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

relative to the starting point of January 1st. So, Senator Wesely, if we could exchange maybe a brief discussion, you can help me with the process again because, as you know, agencies are going to have to start working on the budget for the next two years I would assume in about August of this year, maybe even July, August, to have information ready for the Appropriations Committee in December, and then we will start working on going through that whole process in January. And if I am understanding the way that we have the partnership set up right now, is they're still going to be in the process of developing the rules and regulations and how...the details of the plan, and I am having a hard time understanding how they are going to be able to do both of those, get ready for the next two-year budget period and restructure this. And let me make the statement and then I'll let you comment. It would seem to me that if we were to put in place the rules and regulations and then begin to work on the budgeting aspect of that for the second year of the next two-year budget period, we might be able to coordinate those activities a little bit better, but that's just a sense that I have right now. And so maybe you could take a minute or so and share with me your thoughts on that aspect.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, this...this is almost a chicken and egg issue, trying to decide how we go forward. The thinking was that we set in motion the direction we want to go and emerging into three entities that are service directed or functionally directed. Then the elements of how that would happen would follow, so there is a massive amount of work to be done, Senator Maurstad. You are right about that and I don't know how much can get done by next session, but the budget, at least, by taking the different entities and keeping everything pretty much status quo, just realigning the administrative structures, I think that they can at least... Well, problem is that you don't know ultimately how in '97 the Legislature will go. So you are going to have a little problem there because they could come in with a budget assuming certain changes in statute, but unless we get that done, there may or may not be a change in that budget, so...but that's kind of the way things are now I mean budgets...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: So...so wouldn't that...wouldn't it be better then if we waited for the implementation then until after the Legislature (interruption)...