

February 28, 1996 LB 1322

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, it's interesting as I sit here trying to analyze what to do on this. Maybe I...sometimes I think I'm going to ask some questions of Senator Wesely. But first speaking, sometimes I think maybe what Senator Maurstad is taking out may be the important...most important part of the bill. Senator Wesely, I'd like to ask what the intention of the...this Code Task Force, who will underwrite the expenses of this, and to what extent do you anticipate they will go in arriving at their conclusions? Will they...are they looking at hiring a consultant? Can this be done in-house, the Department of Health? Is it going to take more than meets the eye here to gather all these statistics, or can it be simply done perhaps as a study, as we would envision it, within our body that we undertake? Can you describe to me how you envision this.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, first off, it's housed in the Department of Health. Senator Maurstad asked why is it there. It's there because they have the most regulatory expertise and Department of Economic Development, which now deals a lot with housing, does not. So the feeling in the administration was that it should go under the Department of Health. That's the answer to question number one. Question number two is, how much will it cost? The cost will depend, and that's something we can talk about now, or we can talk about with the A bill. It's a minimal cost of 5,000, is what they're talking about, just to simply handle the paper transactions, what have you. You could take it another step and bring in a consultant to do a very major study. That isn't particularly necessary, in my view. I think that there's enough expertise currently in the state, that can be called on to help advise this group, that we wouldn't really particularly need to bring anybody from the outside in. So I don't think that that's necessary. So...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, so you have a 5,000 A bill which will help in-house General Funds...

SENATOR WESELY: That's right.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...in the Department of Health. I'm not sure what I'm going to do. Looks like we're going to run out of time on this before it advances. And I just wanted...it's interesting, I had some...tried to get some research done this last year on costs of housing in Nebraska. My intent was to see