

February 28, 1996 LB 1322

Ec...Department of Economic Development, is that right,...

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...to make a decision as to who should be eligible. And so what's the criteria that's going to be developed in order to make one community eligible as...these become a very combative thing when you get...

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...to them. I just wonder, how do you determine who's eligible and who isn't?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, that would be determined by the department, and there would be an advisory committee formed to work with them on it. But the whole idea would be to generate, from communities, plans that would come forward that would address their housing needs, that would bring in resources from the community, that's how you leverage it, and use the state dollars and whatever federal dollars are available. So it would be sort of like where's the best investment, where do we see communities really coming together, and then send our money there, sort of like on 775, really target what communities that have really brought themselves together and help them achieve their goals.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I can see a lot of value in this bill. And I certainly, at this point, seen, from what I read, and I'm going to be looking at more closely and hope more debate will develop. But it appears to me at this time that this is something that's...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...way past due and we should be continuing to look at it more closely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: That was really an awakening. Thank you,