

March 11, 1996

LB 1044

opportunity. Like Senator Wesely said, if it isn't going to work, we can redo it next year. And I don't have any partisanship involved with this at all, I think you know that. I just think that this is the best policy for us at this point. So I'm not going to support the Maurstad amendment and I am going to support 1044. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I agree with the Speaker that certainly March 15th is not as good a date as in comparison to the July 1st date. Unfortunately, the Legislature has already rejected the July 1st date that would have coincided with the fiscal year that I think would have made a lot more sense. And so I want to make sure that it's clear that what I am proposing here is merely a compromise to provide some measure of time but isn't the best solution from my perspective. And I also understand the comments about not turning back that the Chairman of the Health Committee has indicated, and that certainly is a very logical way to approach this. But there's also the other side of the coin, and that being that if the employees, if we're concerned about employees dragging their feet, the work that's been put in, in trying to involve the employees over the course of the last 12 months, obviously, would have gone for naught. I think we want to continue to have that employee input. But if we have... The other side of the coin is if we have such a rigid time frame in which to implement this, that also gives the directors and the decision makers an opportunity to completely impose their will, notwithstanding employee input, which could then in fact cause some concern for all of us that would need to be addressed. So what we're looking at here is an attempt to try to balance the implementation and the involvement of the employees and some additional legislative oversight that's not involved in there now. Madam President, could I ask Senator Wesely a question?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Is Senator Wesely on the floor?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: He is on the floor.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator, I just want to clarify, this doesn't have anything to do with the date part, but just clarify a