

SENATOR DIERKS: Bludgeon away.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Dierks, is the practice of veterinary medicine in Nebraska regulated or overseen by the Department of Health, at this point, or just what agency does that?

SENATOR DIERKS: Department of Health takes care of our licensure.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Suppose, in order to save money, this were to be placed within the province of the Attorney General and there is no plan as to how it's to be done, or what the impact will be, but it's just suspected that there would have to be savings, would you agree to that?

SENATOR DIERKS: Not from what you've told me.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Dierks, how is what I told you about that different from what we're doing here, where we have no plan, no assurance there will not be duplication, nothing addressing the number of employees or what they will do, nothing requiring the coordination of computer services or activities, none of the things that should be in place with the government places a serious act. None of that is in place with reference to this bill, yet you say you'll support it.

SENATOR DIERKS: I think that that will come in the bills next year, Senator Chambers. This bill just provides them with the opportunity to do the restructuring. But the restructuring process itself will happen...the bills that allow that to happen will happen next year. We'll have the opportunity next year to take care of the issues you're concerned with. There's another thing you have to remember, there's a contract with NAPE, which almost...I mean that has an awful lot to do with how many jobs you can do away with over there. But those jobs can be taken care of, I think, through attrition and retirement. The thing that I'm more concerned about is not the dollars going to the employees of the agencies, but the dollars that are going to the recipients, where you have some recipients receiving benefits from each of three different agencies, and the agencies don't even know themselves that the other agencies are doing that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand what you're saying, Senator Dierks. But I have to look at the totality of this situation.