

existing executive authority is still there, the concern...some concern of the department, and we had changed this language. The first language I had said that the Legislature shall vote to approve or disapprove the transition plan at the next regular legislative session, which will be after 1997, by a majority of its members. Through the concern of the administrators, they had brought forth and said that, what about the legislation? Well, I didn't have any problem. The intent here is that the legislative plan does include that legislation that is needed to implement the plan. And, again, it is not intended to change the existing authority of the executive branch. We can't do that. I just wanted to have it clear in here, hopefully this language shows that the Legislature will and has a part in this process. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY PRESIDING

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Witek, on the Avery amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the body. On page 5 of the green copy of the bill in Section 6, it says, "Effective January 1, 1997, all programs and functions of the Department on Aging, Department of Health, Department of Public Institutions, Department of Social Services, and the Office of Juvenile Services of the Department of Correctional Services shall be transferred to three departments to be known as the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Health and Human Services Standards and Evaluation, and Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support." I was talking to a senator this afternoon over the lunch hour who said, well, of course they're going to come back to us for approval. Why is the Avery amendment even necessary? And I said, where did you, where did you understand that they would have to come back to us for any approval of any of this? Well, they assumed that this was going to be just kind of starting the ball rolling, as you hear people tell us, when we're talking to them. We went to a meeting, I guess, with Senator Rasmussen and Lieutenant Governor and some others who are involved in this, and they were telling us what this would involve. But as we were reading the legislation in front of us and asking questions about the legislation specifically, we weren't getting any answers. They were telling us that they were putting this together, that it was just going to be something that was going to be started in,